Track down Abu assets, orders Macapagal

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2001 ★★ 36 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 296 ₱15

Garganera backs up Rosebud's testimony

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A TEAM of former narcotics operatives led by Supt. John Campos earned at least P7 million a month from the street sales of illegal drugs that

GARGANERA/ A12

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ▨ **Belmonte still in coma** METRO / A17
- ▨ **No deal on coco levy–Yorac** NEWS / A5
- ▨ **New players lead oil price cut.** NEWS / A5
- ▨ **Left sticks to ₱125 pay hike** ACROSS / A11

Erap: No shoes and no lawyers

'How can I get a fair trial? This is judicial terrorism'

JUST like their idol, Estrada's shoeless supporters are there for him outside the Sandiganbayan.
DENNIS SABANGAN

BY DONNA S. CUETO
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

THE FIRST day of the first plunder trial of a Philippine president will be remembered for the absence of two things: Joseph Estrada's lawyers and shoes.

"I am not even prepared. I am not even dressed up, I am in my slippers," the former movie star, wearing dark brown leather slippers, a beige jacket, dark brown shirt and cream pants, lamented before entering the courtroom.

His co-accused son Jinggoy came to the Sandiganbayan similarly dressed down for the start of the landmark trial, in a blue shirt and jeans.

In the courtroom, the two sauntered to an empty defendant's bench. A third alleged accomplice, former lawyer Edward Serapio, arrived an hour earlier with his own counsel.

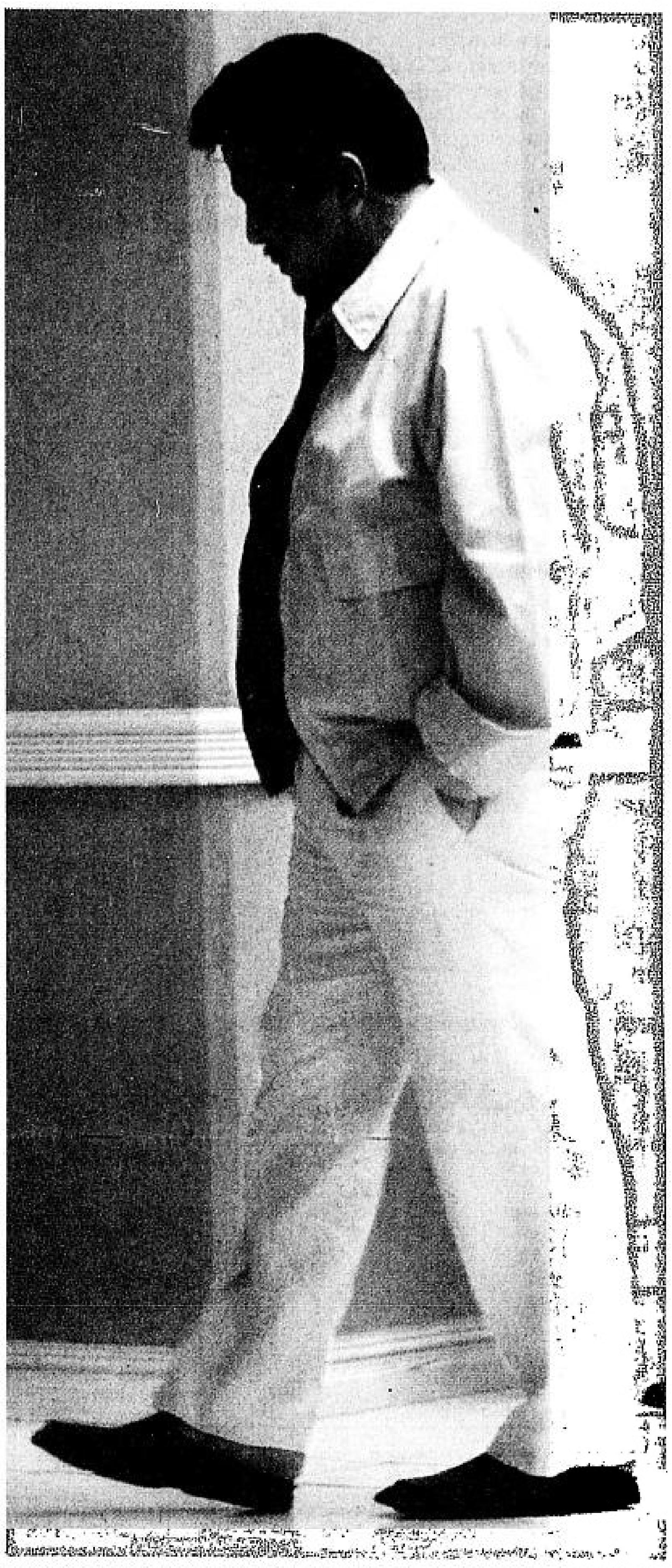
With none of his own lawyers present, the former President stood to defend his own case, apologizing to the court for wearing casual clothes, and saying that he had waived his right to be at the trial and had not planned on coming.

"I'm being threatened by the Ombudsman that if I refuse to come, I will be bodily taken to the court. That is judicial terrorism. That is uncalled for," the former movie star said. "Forgive me for my attire."

Desierto, citing several attempts to delay the trial, has said the 64-year-old Estrada was trying to avoid embarrassment.

"I have nothing to avoid anymore," Estrada said before the trial.

ERAP/ A13



HISTORIC moment starts with a shuffle of slippers worn by the first President to go on trial for plunder, which is also a first. For his appointment with history, Estrada came casual.
VAL HANDUMON

PALACE OK

American warplanes flew over RP

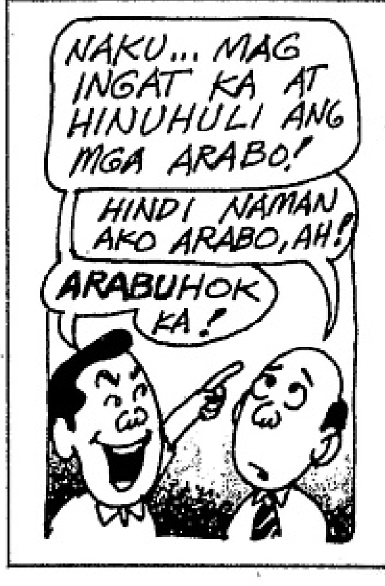
BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

EVEN before President Macapagal-Arroyo announced last month her "14 pillars of policy and action" against terrorism, an undisclosed number of US combat planes, C-5 Galaxy aircraft transport planes and KC 135 aircraft refueling tankers made overflights in the Philippines for deployment possibly to the Persian Gulf area.

According to the President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, the overflights occurred from Sept. 22 to 26. He said that the US government made a written request through its embassy here on Sept. 20, and that the President granted permission through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The US government informed us before the overflights of the types and number of aircraft that flew over Philippine territory," Tiglao said in a news

AMERICAN/ A12



NAKU... MAG INGAT KA AT HINUHULI ANG MGA ARABO!
HINDI NAMAN AKO ARABO, AH!
ARABUHOK KA!

Basilan no place for 'Arab-looking' people–Akbar

ISABELA CITY—The specter of racial profiling has come to the province of Basilan, on the back of a racist order by Gov. Wahab Akbar directing the police and the military to arrest all "Arab-looking" people in his province.

He made the announcement after Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu admitted receiving reports that four Arab

BASILAN/ A12

WAR without borders

US faces new 'very serious threat'

British PM sees proof Bin Laden behind attacks

WASHINGTON—Attorney General John Ashcroft on Sunday warned of a "very serious threat" of new terrorist attacks on America as a US-led global coalition hunts down Osama bin Laden and his international terrorist network.

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he had seen "incontrovertible" evidence linking Bin Laden to the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Blair said the coalition must get Bin Laden, who is living in Afghanistan as a guest of the Taliban, and "eradicate" his al-Qaida organization at all costs.

In Kabul, however, Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar told the people of Afghanistan not to fear US military strikes, saying "Americans don't have the courage to come here."

Pakistani President Pervez Musharaff said the chances of the Taliban turning over Bin Laden to US authorities were "very dim."

With little sign of anything besides a military solution in sight, Ashcroft said that "we believe there are others who may be in the country and who have plans" for more attacks.

"Frankly, as the United States responds, that threat may escalate," he said in a television interview.

"We're very confident that Osama bin Laden, al-Qaida, and terrorist organizations are operating in dozens and dozens and dozens of countries around the world," Ashcroft added on CNN's "Late Edition."

Citing the continuing threat, Ashcroft urged Congress to provide "the tools to prevent terrorism" by dramatically increasing federal officials' ability to perform electronic surveillance, punish terrorists and detain non-citizens.

President George W. Bush wants to see the legislative package passed by Friday, but sources say the two chambers can only begin to negotiate on the package by mid-October.

Also on Sunday, the Bush administration rejected an overture by a Taliban envoy who said discus-

US/ A12

Cory launches prayer pilgrimage for world peace

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

FORMER President Corazon Aquino yesterday launched a prayer pilgrimage for world peace, an apparent reprise of the prayer crusade that she undertook last year at the height of the public clamor for Joseph Estrada's resignation as president.

Aquino, however, expressed support for President Macapagal-Arroyo's 14-pillar policy to battle global terrorism, saying: "Even during the last National Security Council meeting (held last month), I told the President that I am one with her, especially during her most difficult times."

Still, she said the Macapagal administration should "address our own needs first" before going all-out in its

CORY/ A12

A GOOD DAY

President Macapagal visits the Smokey Mountain housing in Tondo with Reghis Romero II (extreme left) and National Housing Administrator Edgardo Pamintuan and other housing officials.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Yorac chides Roco over Marcos rites

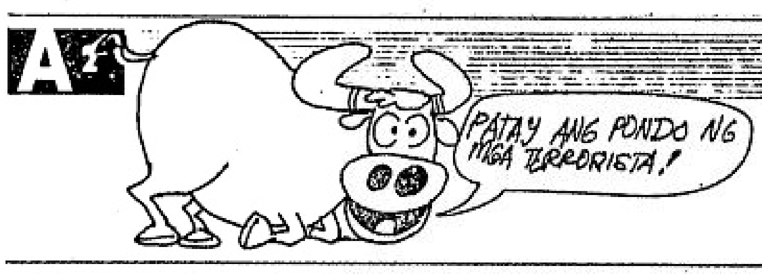
BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco is being accused of perpetuating "a revisionist, dishonest and grossly distorted view" of the Marcos dictatorship among public schoolchildren in Ilocos Norte.

The accusation came from Haydee Yorac, the feisty chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government PCGG, which is tasked with going after the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

Yorac's beef with Roco, a former chair of the Senate committee on

YORAC/ A13


PATAY ANG PONDO NG MGA TERRORISTA!

Second FRONT PAGE

Track down Abu assets–Gloria

By Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Department of Finance and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to track local terrorists' funds, as she stepped up support for the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

Earlier, the President had said the United States could use Philippine airspace as well as air and seaports as transit points in the global war on terrorism.

"Another major form of government assistance would be an intensified campaign to prevent the use of our financial institutions as conduits for the finances of international terrorists," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal directed the finance department to coordinate with the BSP "and undertake steps to hunt down the funds of global terrorists that may be in Philippine banks and to ensure that no such funds are coursed or laundered through local financial institutions."

MACAPAGAL

Tiglao said the focus of the investigation would be bank accounts believed to belong to the Abu Sayyaf, an extremist group with reported links to Osama bin Laden, principal suspect in the terrorist attacks on the United States last month.

The government believes the Abu Sayyaf was able to raise P500 million from kidnappings and has hidden the money in Mindanao banks.

"We are going by the statement of Commander Robot that he would surrender if given half of the booty taken in the Sipadan kidnapping, and he was talking of getting P240 million," said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

Golez was directed by the President to coordinate with the BSP and the finance department in tracking down the Abu Sayyaf accounts.

"If that is half of the booty, then the total would be close to half-a-billion pesos," Golez added.

He said the total estimate was supported by information given by persons who served as "bagmen" during the ransom payments.

"And no less than the President mentioned (in her speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association) that when she was vice president and DSWD secretary, she heard so much talk about some banks being used as depository banks in the Zamboanga-Sulu area," Golez said.

"This will be the focus of our efforts," he said.

The government, Golez said, also plans to use the new anti-money laundering law against the terrorists.

"If they move money from their accounts, that would be money laundering," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding at least 18 hostages, including an American couple, in the southern Philippines.

Last year, it seized 21 hostages, including 10 Westerners, from Sipadan, a Malaysian resort. The group reportedly collected millions of dollars in ransom paid by Libya for the hostages' release. *With an AP report*

Abu leader yields

By Alcuin Papa

AN ABU Sayyaf sub-commander based in Basilan who had a P1-million prize on his head surrendered last week to Armed Forces troops, the military said yesterday.

Acid Kusong Taulani gave up to soldiers of Task Force Comet under Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua on Sept. 27.

Taulani, who was on the list of the Department of National Defense's most wanted terrorists, surrendered in Barangay Balatanay, Isabela City, Basilan, at around 4 p.m. He is in the custody of the task force, which is based in Basilan.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, of the Army's Public Affairs office, told the Inquirer that Taulani was the fourth ASG member from Basilan now under military custody.

Also last week, three ASG members were captured by 1st Scout Ranger Battalion troops in Barangay Galayan, Maluso, Basilan.

"The number one reason they surrendered was the plea of their families that they return to the fold of the law," Mabanta said.

Mabanta said other reasons given by ASG members for their surrender were the hardship of living in the jungles of Basilan and being chased by the military and the infighting among the bandits on the division of ransom.

The Abu Sayyaf continues to hold 18 hostages including two Americans, Martin and Gracia Burnham, who were abducted from a Palawan resort.

Mabanta said 84 ASG members based in Jolo, Sulu, have already surrendered to the military.

Palace confident laundering law will meet int'l standards

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday expressed confidence that the Paris-based money-laundering watchdog would announce soon that it would not be imposing economic sanctions on the Philippines now that the country has come up with anti-money laundering legislation.

Despite some criticisms against Republic Act 9160, or the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, Malacañang said it was optimistic that the "watershed law" would satisfy the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force set up by the Group of Eight industrialized countries.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said copies of RA 9160 were sent to the Paris and Hong Kong offices of the FATF immediately after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the measure into law last Sept. 29.

Malacañang was now awaiting a statement from the FATF that the country would no longer be subjected to "enhanced (financial) surveillance or counter-measures," Tiglao said.

The FATF had threatened to impose sanctions, which would affect bank transactions and foreign loans, on the Philippines unless it failed to come up with the crucial measure by the Sept. 30 deadline.

Tiglao said that if the FATF does not make an announcement about imposing the sanctions, it would mean that they had found the law sufficient.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also expressed confidence that the new law would meet the FATF's approval.

"This is a good law. I am confident that it will meet the standards set by the international community," said Drilon, commenting on criticisms that the new law was flawed.

The Senate President said he was equally confident that the Philippines will soon be taken out of the FATF list of uncooperative countries.

While the next plenary session of the FATF will not be until February next year, "what is important is that the sanctions threatened as of Sept. 30 will no longer take place," Drilon said.

Banking and justice department officials had criticized the law that Congress finally approved as severely watered-down.

But Tiglao said Malacañang was not preparing possible amendments at this point.

"We are very confident that the (law) would measure up," Tiglao said.

The Anti-Money Laundering Law will take effect 15 days after it is published in two newspapers. The President has already signed the order for its publication.

In Baguio City, two Bayan Muna representatives said they had withdrawn their sponsorship of the money-laundering measure shortly before it was approved by Congress.

Party-list Rep. Liza Maza said here last Saturday that Bayan Muna did not want to be party to the measure because it was "initiated by international pressure" from the FATF.

She said the deadline imposed by the FATF deadline was too "objectionable," and the law "would not even assume the dignity of a Philippine law."

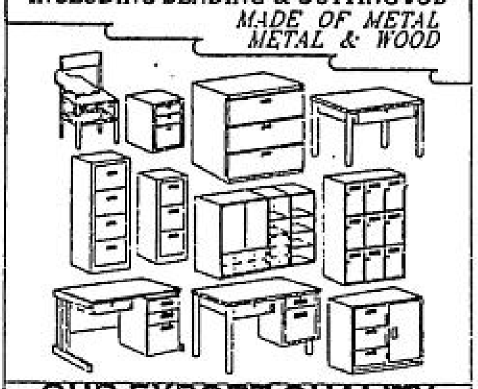
Maza and Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran became automatic sponsors because the House committees of justice and finance, of which they are members, had their own versions of the bill.

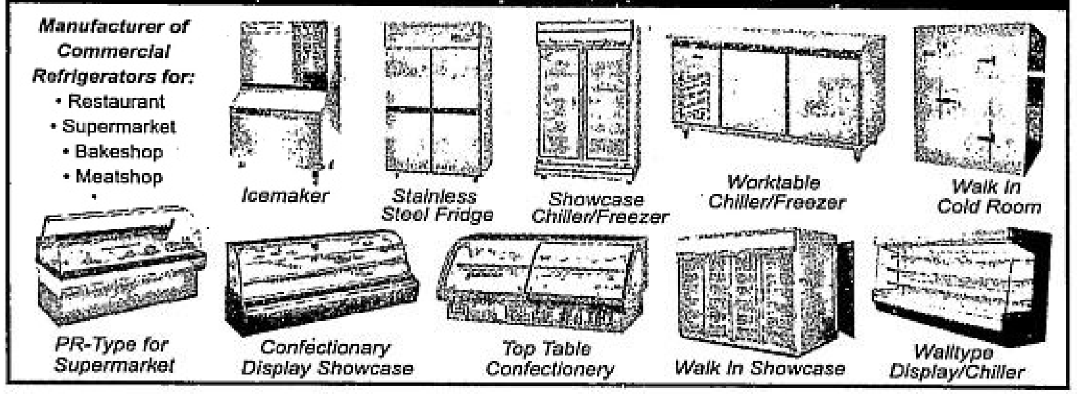
Maza said Bayan Muna remains a component of the House majority, despite its posture of critical independence.

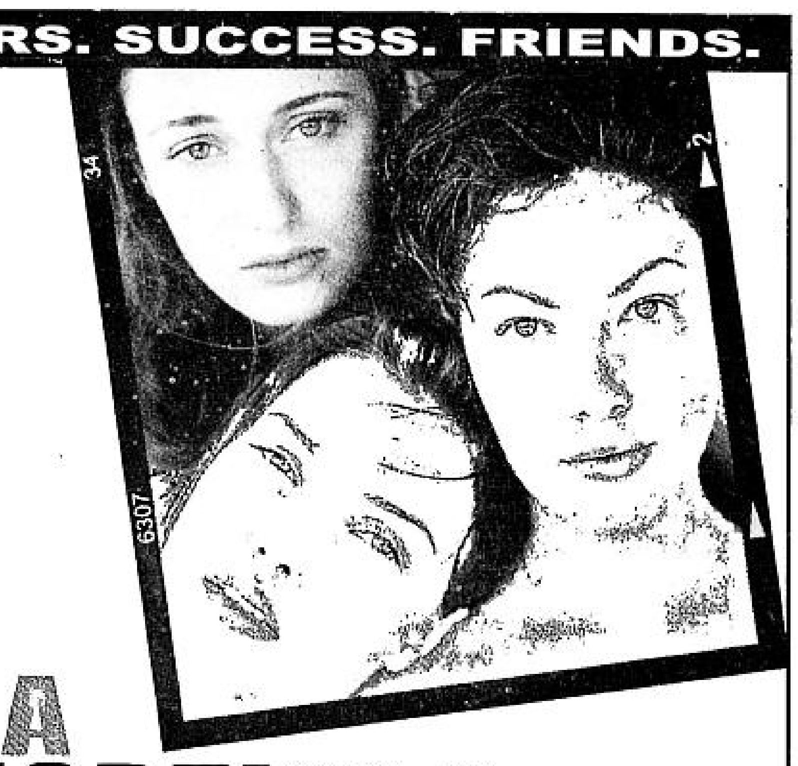
Delegates to the 10th North Philippines Area Business Conference here, however, endorsed the anti-money laundering.

"Philippine business needs to be patriotic about the money-laundering bill. In these times of economic crisis, we all need to pick up our spurs and work together to clean up our acts," said Carlos Honorio Estepa, the new vice president for North Luzon of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Manila and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Keep The Good Memories More Vivid And Lasting!
ONLY P700
We'll transfer them from Beta, VHS, Video 8, & Vhs-C
For special occasions like weddings, baptismal, birthdays and corporate videos like product demos, company profile and audio-visual presentation.
Free Pick-Up And Delivery Within Metro Manila
IDEAL WORKS ☎ 892-9073 to 75 Fax: 867-4226

WE ACCEPT JOB ORDER OF ANY DESIGN INCLUDING BENDING & CUTTING JOB
MADE OF METAL METAL & WOOD

OUR EXPORT QUALITY HOME AND OFFICE FURNITURE
MODULAR METAL PHILIPPINES INC.
86 EAST DRIVE ST., PARANG, MARIKINA CITY
TEL : 948-7729/948-7730

SPEED FREEZE 713 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Wack-Wack Mand. City
Tel. Nos.: (02) 725-0428 • TELEFAX.: (1) 725-0612
Manufacturer of Commercial Refrigerators for:
• Restaurant
• Supermarket
• Bakeshop
• Meatshop


CAREERS. SUCCESS. FRIENDS.

BE A MODEL. BE A STAR.
Confidence. Poise. New Friends.
You can find success with the training you need.
Make it Happen!
CALL NOW. 892 9511
John Robert Powers
www.johnrobertpowers.com
Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati CONVENIENT PARKING NEARBY
Get on with Life. START TODAY!
FREE Consultation.

Fitness First Health Clubs
Making fitness affordable... and FUN !

193 clubs worldwide
NOW IN MAKATI !
United Kingdom
Hong Kong
Italy
Singapore
Thailand
Australia
France
Holland
Malaysia
Germany
Spain
Belgium
Our first 500 members receive free membership
8TH FLOOR, JG SUMMIT BUILDING, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.
(next to Insular Life)
CALL 813 0761

Suddenly media-shy, Nani names spokesman

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez has assigned one of his undersecretaries as his spokesperson effective yesterday.

Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee "is designated as the official spokesperson of the undersigned in all matters concerning the department," Perez said in a memorandum.

But there was no formal announcement of Teehankee's designation.

Perez, who was at the Sandiganbayan leading the prosecution camp during the first day of the plunder trial of deposed ex-President Joseph Estrada, could not be reached for an explanation.

But his designating a spokesperson has sparked speculations that the justice secretary wanted to avoid the media following Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations that he had received a $2-million bribe for approving a hydroelectric power plant rehabilitation contract.

Perez has been accused of endorsing the bid of the Argentine-based Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona SA (Impsa), the company that won the contract, shortly after President Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in last January.

Lacson alleged that the $2 million was now deposited with the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong where Perez supposedly keeps the money that he allegedly collected from "extortion" activities.

Yesterday, Lacson said he was making sure that his evidence against Perez was "fool proof" before filing a case against him.

Reminding reporters that he was after all a former police officer, Lacson said he had the necessary documents to nail Perez.

"The documents are enough to stand scrutiny from some well-paid lawyers acting in (Perez's) defense," he said.

Perez, who is up for confirmation before the Commission on Appointments, believes this was the reason why Lacson, who is himself the subject of a Senate investigation into his allegedly criminal activities, has turned on him.

In previous interviews, Perez said he foresaw a difficult time with CA opposition members because of his key role in the criminal prosecution of Estrada and his cronies.

But in a phone interview, Teehankee downplayed the speculations about his new appointment.

He said Perez may have just wanted the department to be able to react to media queries more speedily, rather than have reporters wait for Perez himself to issue statements.

In the case of the Impsa contract, Teehankee said the DOJ can produce documents showing the deal had been approved by Perez's predecessor, Artemio Tuquero.

"The Impsa project was already agreed upon during the Estrada administration, not during the time of President Macapagal-Arroyo. What Secretary Perez signed was merely a confirmatory opinion. The main opinion was issued during Tuquero's time, June 2000 to be exact," Teehankee explained.

He said questions on the propriety of the Impsa contract can be addressed by Congress, which has the authority to review power contracts. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

No TRO vs new jail chief

THE QUEZON City regional trial court denied yesterday a quo warranto petition with prayer for a temporary restraining order and injunction filed by Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit, former officer in charge of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Judge Modesto Juancho, in denying Alit's petition, pointed out that the petitioner's hold on the position was temporary in nature being an OIC and, therefore, can be replaced by the appointing authority anytime. He also added that the appointment of the post of BJMP is clearly a presidential prerogative.

Alit filed his quo warranto petition after President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed S/Supt. Josue G. Engaño as BJMP Chief on Sept. 25.

Embarrassed by
Bad Breath?

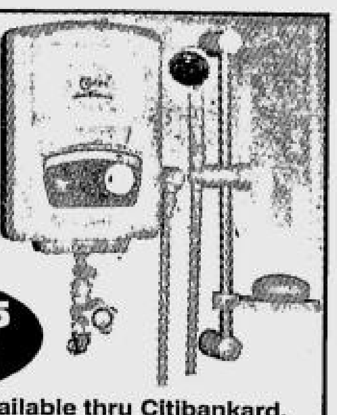
Bad breath is a social disease and can ruin your personal and social relationship. It is actually caused by sulfur producing bacteria that thrive on throat and back of tongue that assist us in food digestion. Under certain conditions, these bacteria will breakdown proteins and transform them into sulfide which create odor and bad taste

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Help is here. THERABREATH™ system, is the only medication known today that effectively attack bacteria at its root to eliminate *bad breath bitter/sour tastes, thick-pasty saliva, phlegm in throat, dry mouth, tooth decay, awful morning breath*

Regain confidence. THERABREATH™ System is a product of U.S.A.

To order, call: 895-5532; 895-6775; 897-2466; 890-8380
E-mail: epcfresh@compass.com.ph



JET-matic®
CENTON SHOWER HEATER
ENJOY HOT WATER FOR YOUR SHOWER!

P547.65 A MONTH (12 Months)

Installments available thru Citibankard, BPI, Unibankard & other major credit cards

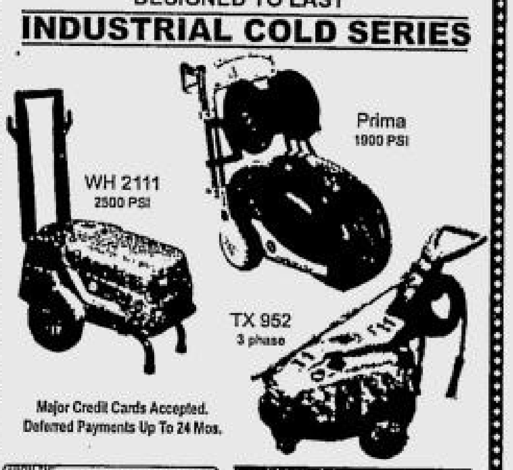
EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY:
SEACOM
721 Aurora Blvd, New Manila, Q.C.
(In front of Magnolia/Nestle Ice Cream Plant)
Tels.: 7222140 • 7222661 • 7235853
7221860(DL) • Fax 7235854 E-mail: seacom@qinet.net

• SEACOM CEBU
McArthur Road, Pier 4 New Reclamation Area, Cebu City
Tel. Nos (032) 232-4712, 232-4716

• SEACOM DAVAO
J.P. Laurel, Bajada, Davao City
Tel. No (082) 222-3191

FREE INSTALLATION WITHIN METRO MANILA, METRO CEBU & DAVAO CITY

DESIGNED TO LAST
INDUSTRIAL COLD SERIES



Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.

FROM THE NO. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS

With AFTER SALES SERVICE

Exclusively Distributed by: CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.
Main Office: Kimika Bldg., 1851 M. Orosa St., Malate, Mla Telefax 5244380
Tel. Nos.: 5244472 • 5240529 Trunkline: 5245290
Quezon City Br.: 646 Quezon Ave., Q.C. across Sto. Domingo Church
Bet. G. Araneta Ave Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

zed™
THE GOOD NEWS

Start your day with a gospel reading on your SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text cell phone. If you are using a **zed SIM card**, go to the **menu**, click on **TODAY** go to **WORD** then follow the instructions on your screen.

For keywords of other zed services, type **KEYS** and send to 288. P2.50 per reading.

WORD
288
ISAIAH 42:1-5

Key in WORD.
Send to 288.
You will receive your reading in a moment.

www.zed.com

Unbelievable!
COMPUTER SALE

Everybody can afford!!! This is your chance!!! 3 months warranty!!!

Complete Pentium I Package
W/ 14" SVGA Monitor as low as P 3,790 only

14" SVGA Color Monitor - P1,490 to P1,950

THREE K TRADING CORP.
126 FMF Compd., Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Main: 635-0526; 635-0528 Manila: 564-9561

5 %Discount
Bring this Ad until Oct. 9 Only!

SPECIAL DEALS ON VOLUME ORDERS FOR PROVINCIAL DEALERS/ SCHOOL & OFFICE NEEDS!

HOTEL INSTITUTE MONTREUX IN SWITZERLAND

KNOWN FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOTEL MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

- 3-year B. Sc. Degree in International Hospitality Business Management with Oxford Brookes University, U.K.
- 2.5-year Swiss and US Hospitality Management Diplomas

2 periods of paid internship

- 18 weeks of Post Graduate and Professional Diploma programme in
  - Food and Beverage Operations
  - Food and Beverage Management
  - Rooms Division Management
  - Hospitality Sales and Marketing
  - Hospitality Financial Management

Invites students, parents and interested parties to a

FREE SEMINAR PRESENTATION

Date : Saturday, October 6, 2001
Time : 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Place : Nash Room
Mandarin Oriental Manila
Makati Avenue, Makati City
by
Ms. LISA MALONDA
HIM Regional Marketing Manager

15 Avenue des Alpes,
CH-1820 Montreux, Switzerland

Telephone : +41 21 9664646
Fax : +41 21 9664600
E-mail : him@him.ch
Website : www.him.ch

To inquire / confirm attendance, call / text or e-mail
Annie : 921-75-13 (7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.)
Nina : 0917-8909010
Bel : 0917-4098345
E-mail : globalcampus88@yahoo.com

INTRODUCING
PORTABLE OXYGEN

- Oxygen Anytime/ Anywhere
- Complete Set with Carrying Bag
- Made in U.S.A.
- Best for emergency

OXYLITE
[fareastmedical.net]

SM MANILA
5TH FLR. 484-1471

ROBINSONS GALLERIA
Basement 635-5061

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL	SM FAIRVIEW	SM NORTH EDSA
5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36	Basement 418-75-40	Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 262-32-39	SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-40 93	GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721-34-87

HongKong EXTENDED

SPECIAL
REGAL RIVERSIDE HOTEL
• Near the big New Town Shopping Complex with breakfast inside the hotel
• • • or • • •
DORSET SEAVIEW/GARDEN HOTELS
•Near the famous Night Market•
(breakfast outside the hotel)

ONLY $249 /PERSON

SPECIAL
BARKADA PACKAGE (5 Star Hotel)
MARCO POLO/PRINCE HOTEL

ONLY $263 /PERSON

PACKAGES INCLUDE
- 4/DAYS3/NIGHTS HOTEL
- ROUND TRIP AIRFARE
- ROUND TRIP TRANSFER
- HALFDAY CITY TOUR
- DAILY BREAKFAST
- FREE Shenzhen shopping tour with FREE LUNCH

GUARANTEE (FREE SHOPPING TIME AT LO WU SHOPPING CENTER
Also check our special deals on other hotels

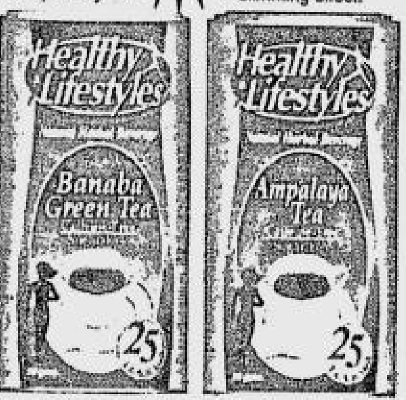
WORLD WINGS
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURS CORPORATION
TELS:410-7184, 926-5804, 926-5817, 926-5821, 926-5854, 926-5850, 926-5849, 410-7196 FAX: 926-5842
Ground Flr., K Plaza, 18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
(OPEN SATURDAYS)
E-mail: wwings@itextron.com

100% Herbal! Diabetes best!

AMPALAYA
The first 100% Momordica **Charantia Green Tea** in tea bags. Rich in Vitamins A, B, B2 and C, and Iron. Helps control blood and urine sugar levels. Taken regularly, prevents hypertension, diabetes, constipation, high cholesterol, kidney and liver problems, tumors and enhances immune system & stop the growth of HIV.

BANABA
Taken regularly, **Banaba Green Tea** can help lower blood pressure, diabetes, control kidney and bladder problems, stomach disorders and diarrhea. With remarkable slimming effect.

25 Tea Bags Caffeine-Free Sugar-Free



A quality product, given the Golden Award at the 24E Salon International Des Inventions de Geneve '96

Registered as Herbal Food Supplement-No Approved Therapeutic Claims

Distributed by: ALLIED EXPRESS INT'L. IMPORT-EXPORT INC. Fax: (632) 723-2168

AVAILABLE ONLY AT ALL SM SUPERMARKETS, HEALTH & BEAUTY AND OTHER LEADING SUPERMARKETS.

NOW IN THE PHILIPPINES!

kidoo
ULTRASONIC NEBULIZER
With automatic shutoff!

Kidoo Ultrasonic Nebulizer is ideal for children. It provides instant relief when you want it, where you want it. Bring a Kidoo Ultrasonic Nebulizer everyday!

KIT CONTENTS:
1) AC/DC Adapter
2) Rechargeable battery: Ni-Cad 12vdc
3) Mouthpiece
4) Extension Tube
5) Nosepiece
6) Pediatric Mask
7) 5 Reusable medicine cups

3-YEAR WARRANTY

Instant Relief Wherever You Go.
Fight asthma, bronchitis, colds, emphysema and other respiratory difficulties.

Complete Aerosol Nebulizer Kit

Manufactured and Exclusively Distributed by
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715, 631-9358, 631-5504 Fax (632) 631-7869
E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph
http://www.medcen-trading.com

Pasig Branch Tel. 631-1715	Manila Branch Tel. 711-8374	Cebu Branch (032) 254-2367
Davao Branch (082) 222-4404	Iloilo Branch (033) 320-1413	Lipa Branch (043) 7572051

Available in all mercury drug Stores Nationwide

FACIAL CARE CENTRE
19 YEARS
REVERSE AGEING

Beautiful FACES & more *by Facial Care Centre*

Beauty. Confidence. Charm. Radiance. Youth. Appeal. Happiness. Facial Care Centre gives you all these and more! With 19 years of Reverse Ageing expertise, you're assured of not only great skin but all the winning attributes that go with it.

The women of Facial Care Centre. More than just beautiful faces. Call NOW and be one of them!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

NOW OPEN

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
817-3323	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	242-2148	920-7938	961-3404/08	233-7631
812-6080/81	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	242-2185	920-7992 / 920-8064	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Federal Tower Bldg. Dasmariñas St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., Mc Arthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS

Recent developments worldwide have necessitated the increase of the premiums for third party liability insurance of airlines all over the world. In keeping with our commitment to your safety and for the welfare of the communities we serve, Air Philippines has taken the insurance coverage for war and terrorism related third party risk. As a consequence, and much to our regret, we are constrained to assess a surcharge of three hundred pesos (Php 300) on each passenger for every flight sector. The surcharge will be collected on all tickets issued starting 01 October 2001 and will be applicable on the following types of tickets:

* Revenue (Adult, child, and infant)
* Reduced/Discounted/Special Fares
* Traveler's Plus
* Holiday Escapades or Tour Packages
* Free-of-Charge (FOC)
* Barter
* Tickets issued for Charter Flights

We would like to beg the indulgence of the riding public while we implement, with much reluctance, this added measure. We hope that with our collective efforts, we will overcome all these difficulties and that global recovery is near at hand.

Thank you for your understanding. Rest assured that Air Philippines continues to have your well being of primordial concern.

Air Philippines
Fly High Filipino!

CALL 855-9000 / FAX : 851-7922 / E-MAIL: reservations@airphilippines.com.ph

8q Chest Cooler
3 Gallon Beverage Cooler
Charger
Brazil Tent
Gallon Jug
Captain's Chair
5qt. Cooler
32qt. Xtreme Cooler
4D Floating Sport Light
Rechargeable Twin Tube Lantern
2D PVC Flashlight
3D Nightsight
Kids Lunch Plus
Table Top Lunch
Munch Pail
Sleeping Bag
8qt. Personal Cooler
Companion Lantern
Push Pull Light
your logo here
1 Gallon Jug
Gobble Box
Coleman
Collectible Lantern Keychain
1 AA Flashlight
2 Liter Jug
Table Lamp
1/3 Gallon Jug
Can Holder
18 Can Soft Cooler

Because giveaways have always been something tough to think about.

The Coleman Corporate Giveaways. Choose Coleman products you can put your logo on--from tents to flashlights to jugs. Not only will they be tough, but personalised too! Now, that wasn't such a tough decision to make. *Coleman is distributed by Focus Global, Inc. For inquiries, pls. call the Corporate Accounts Group at 634-8587. Look for Tina or Joni.*

Coleman
OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

TERROR FALLOUT

2 airlines cut flights to RP

By TJ Burgonio and Abigail L. Ho

TWO foreign airlines operating in the Philippines have canceled some flights beginning yesterday, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

US-based Northwest Airlines and Taiwan's China Airlines cited "operational requirements" as the reason for reducing flights through the Philippines.

Manila authorities, however, believe the real reason for the cutback is the marked decline in passenger traffic after terrorists crashed three US jets into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

"Some passengers now have a fear of flying, while some airlines are evaluating the profitability of their routes," said Ed Monreal, president of the Airline Operators Council (AOC).

Ninoy Aquino International Airport officials said the number of arrivals and departures in the last couple of weeks has dipped.

Monreal, Cathay Pacific Airways Manila station manager, confirmed this, saying the airline's average load of over 200 passengers per flight has gone down to "a little over 150" since the Sept. 11 attacks. Cathay Pacific flies five times daily to Hong Kong.

Northwest, one of eight US airlines that announced layoffs in the wake of the terrorist attacks, has canceled its Manila-Osaka run from Oct. 1 to 27. The flight is one of three the airline flies out of Manila daily, an airport official said.

China Airlines canceled its daily Manila-Taipei flight on Oct. 4 and 11, and its Manila-Kaoshiung flight on Oct. 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22 and 26.

So far, only the two airlines of the more than 30 foreign carriers that operate out of Naia have canceled flights, Monreal said.

Philippine Airlines, the country's flag-carrier, which reported huge losses following the four-day cancellation of its flights to the US after the tragedies, has not canceled any of its 14 weekly flights.

For its part, the Manila International Airport Authority has reported losses of P1.5 million per day, or 25 percent of its average daily revenues, since Sept. 11.

MIAA chief Edgardo Manda attributed this to the decline in international air traffic.

"Most of our traffic is to and from North America. Most travelers have postponed their trips to the US. Many conventions in the US have also been canceled," Manda said.

The Naia last year recorded some seven million passengers and an income of around P2 billion.

MIAA derives its revenues from terminal fees, carpark payments and welcomers' fees.

It remits 20 percent of its revenues to the national government. As of the first seven months of the year, it had remitted P780 million.

The other 80 percent of its revenues go to operating expenses, runway repairs and personnel services.

Following the terrorist attacks, the Civil Aeronautics Board approved Friday a P300 increase in local airfares and a $6 hike in international air charges to help airlines cope with an increase in insurance premiums.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said the fare hike, which took effect yesterday, would be temporary.

"We don't know exactly how long this would last, but we'll lift it when the situation normalizes," he said.

After the terrorist attacks on the US, most insurance firms worldwide raised premiums on war-related coverage and imposed a $50-million ceiling on third party war-risk insurance.

The firms also demanded that airline companies put up surety bonds of $1 billion for a fleet of aircraft. If an airline does not comply, all its flights would be grounded.

Because of the new requirements, the government has assured local air carriers Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Air and Air Philippines of its full support.

In a letter to the carriers, the transportation and justice departments said they "will formulate a plan that would allow the government to provide Philippine air carriers with incremental indemnity protection for war and allied perils."

Alvarez revealed, however, that three global insurers have agreed to go over the $50-million limit on war-risk coverage.

Manda, at the same time, announced that flights to the Naia will be diverted to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Pampanga from 11:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily from Nov. 15 to July 15, 2002 when the Naia is closed for runway repairs.

Airport cops' row puts Naia security in peril

FEARFUL that it might derail the fight against terrorism, Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza Jr. yesterday sought a stop to the row between the Aviation Security Group (ASG) and the Airport Police Department (APD) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Mendoza told the ASG personnel to stop engaging members of the APD in a "turf war" and instead keep their focus on maintaining security at the country's international airports, mainly Naia, against terrorist elements.

The ASG, he stressed, should not be distracted by such petty things. "In these critical times, the ASG cannot afford to divide its attention of keeping the airports secured against terrorists and criminals," he said in a statement.

Mendoza issued the statement following a series of heated confrontations, including a near shootout, between the two groups over access at the Naia terminal complex.

The row erupted after an APD member barred ASG personnel from entering the ramp area of the terminal because their vehicle did not bear (the proper access decal. That time, authorities were tightening security at the Naia following the terrorist attacks on the US on Sept. 11.

The incident prompted ASG head Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele Jr. to accuse the APD, which is under the direct supervision of assistant manager for security Peter Mutuc of interfering in their job of enforcing security measures.

"Mr. Mutuc remains indifferent, defiant and provocative leading to the reported grudge between him and the PNP-ASG," Ele said in a report to the PNP chief.

Chief Supt. Cresencio Maralit, PNP spokesperson, also made it clear that the ASG is the only unit mandated by law to perform police functions in the country's airports and that its personnel have the exclusive right to be called police.

APD is composed of former security guards.

German exec backs Naia 3

GERMAN government officials yesterday reiterated their support for the controversial Terminal 3 project of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, declaring it as a symbol of success of Filipino-German economic relations.

Roland Koch, Prime Minister-President of the state of Hesse, the region where Frankfurt Airport is located, said the project has the full backing of the Hessen parliament because it has the highest international standards and backed by world-class institutions.

Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services or FRAPort, the company that operates the Frankfurt airport, owns 30 percent of Philippine Air Terminals Co. Inc. (PIATCO), the consortium which won the bid to build and operate Naia 3.

The Frankfurt Airport is said to be the largest freight airport in Europe and the largest passenger airport on the continent.

The project has come under attack from service operators of Naia, saying the construction is saddled with anomalies, including an alleged 500 percent overcharging of the excavation work done in the project site.

The MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso) had even accused Transport and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez of plunder, based on a sworn statement that was later disowned by the witness who executed it.

Maso even took out full-page newspaper ads yesterday outlining its objection to the project. The ads were in the form of an open letter addressed to Koch.

No deal, Haydee says of coco levy

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday ruled out any compromise agreements in all cases involving the plunder of the coconut levy fund of farmers.

The declaration came from PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, who spoke before coconut farmers at forum on the plunder of the unresolved coconut levy scam.

According to Yorac, the present PCGG believes the government has strong evidence and cases against those responsible for the scam.

"We in the PCGG are against any kind of a compromise agreement which will make people who have illegally taken and converted this fund to take a moral high ground about this," Yorac said.

According to Yorac, the PCGG will try its best to prosecute these cases no matter what it takes in order to give justice to the coconut farmers.

She said farmers' groups must help the PCGG in this task by mobilizing its members nationwide to show the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court that they are still awaiting the final verdict on these cases.

Symbolic signing

Yorac's position was supported by the Philippine Coconut Authority, the Coconut Industry Reform (COIR) Movement Inc., civil society led by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), and the Office of the President.

Their leaders made a symbolic signing of the agreement saying "No to Compromise" during the same forum.

Yorac assured the farmers that the present crop of PCGG commissioners do not accept "commissions" or kickbacks in prosecuting these cases.

She said no amount of dilatory tactics by the lawyers of the defendants in these cases can stop them from their mission of recovering this fund.

The coconut levy and the creation of a fund was imposed by Congress through a law enacted in 1971.

Two years later, then President Ferdinand Marcos increased the levy on the first sale but without issuing any receipts to the farmers.

According to PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza the PCGG has at least eight cases involving the coconut levy issue filed against the defendants led by businessman Eduardo Cojuangco and other juridical persons still pending before the Sandiganbayan.

Recovery cases

The three major cases involved the recovery of the coconut farmers' share at the San Miguel Corp., United Coconut Planters' Bank and Bugsuk Island.

The five others involved fund transfers and donations of the fund to former first lady Imelda Marcos' pet projects like the Coconut Palace on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay city.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the coconut levy fund was public in character.

As such, it said, the Sandiganbayan must continue to hear the cases filed by the PCGG against Cojuangco and company.

In the same forum, former Rep. Wigberto Tañada, PRRM president, disclosed several attempts to resolve the coconut levy controversy after the Marcos regime.

But it was during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada that Cojuangco was able to retake the helm of the coconut levy funded companies.

Cojuangco regained chairmanship of the SMC merely a week upon Estrada's assumption to office. His own people were also appointed to the UCPB and the PCA boards.

The coconut farmers' groups had rejected several Estrada drafts of an executive order for a compromise settlement of the controversy.

A new compromise agreement was also put forward by Speaker Jose de Venecia but the farmers did not show willingness to accept it.

Tañada said there was a need for President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order an audit of the fund to avoid its dissipation and abuse.

Civil society

He said civil society and coconut farmers' groups must unite and act as one in pressing for an early resolution of these cases.

Tañada also urged the President to provide immediate livelihood assistance and subsidy to coconut farmers while they were waiting for these cases to be resolved.

"Mrs. President, the farmers are tired of waiting," he said.

For his part, PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion said that his office will help the PCGG pursue these cases by providing all the documents necessary in court.

Coronacion stressed that the PCA did not benefit from this scam as it only served as a collecting agent in this case.

THANKSGIVING FOR NEWS DEALERS

INQUIRER chair Marixi R. Prieto (third from left) and PDI president Sandy R. Prieto-Romualdez (fourth from left) hand over tokens of appreciation to key officers and members of the Newspaper, Magazine and Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines during a thanksgiving luncheon held recently. Shown accepting the tokens are NMCDAP president Juanito Silverio and NMCDAP vice president Lino Miranda. The souvenirs are a compilation of award-winning photos taken by INQUIRER photographers over the last 15 years. Others in photo are (left to right) PDI senior vice president for sales and marketing Rene R. Reinoso; Silverio; PDI corporate relations manager Celine Madamba; NMCDAP treasurer Gil Cuyugan; Carlito Corro; Ms. Prieto; NMCDAP vice president Danny Jose; Ms Romualdez; Cresencio Tabianan; Miranda; PDI AVP for circulation Glo Lardizabal and Eduardo Sinajon.

LOW DEMAND

New players lead oil price cut

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

NEW oil industry players are taking the lead in slashing petroleum product prices, with newcomer Seaoil Petroleum Corp. cutting the prices of its diesel fuel by 25 centavos per liter, and of gasoline and kerosene by 20 centavos per liter.

Flying V, another new player, said it would also reduce prices by between 20 centavos and 30 centavos per liter starting today.

Officials of the Big Three-Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines—have meanwhile deferred comment on the price—cutting spree.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu ascribed the rollback to the softening of world prices of crude and of refined oil.

"It is true that global oil prices shot up (immediately after the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11), but it turned out that the crisis had no effect on the world's oil supply," Yu explained.

Low demand

He said prices had softened because of a larger-than-expected reduction of demand for oil and concerns over a global economic recession.

"Our new prices reflect market conditions in the second half of September," Yu said.

Still, there was no telling how petroleum prices would move in the coming months, he said.

"Definitely, we would be affected if (war breaks out in the Middle East), our prices will follow global market conditions," he said.

Yu said Seaoil had also led a 20-centavo-per-liter rollback last January.

Seaoil's pump prices, which vary depending on the location of its service stations, averages as follows: unleaded, P17.72 per liter; G5 Extreme, P18.29 per liter; and diesel, P13.95 per liter.

Seaoil said it could not give an average price for kerosene as not all of its 51 stations sell the product.

Falling prices

In a separate interview, Flying V chair Ramon Villavicencio said the company rolled back its prices because of falling crude prices and the stability of the peso against the dollar.

Crude prices averaged $24.12 per barrel in September, down by 41 cents from $24.53 in August.

The peso averaged P51.27 to the dollar last month, up by 60 centavos from P51.87 last August.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. president Fernando Martinez said, however, that a price adjustment was premature.

"We are wary of what might happen in the Middle East. If war breaks out soon, there might be an increase in prices," Martinez said.

He said Eastern Petroleum would maintain its prices at current levels despite the other oil companies' price rollback. And should there be an increase in world prices, he said the company would keep to its current prices.

"That way, we could help make our prices more stable," Martinez said.

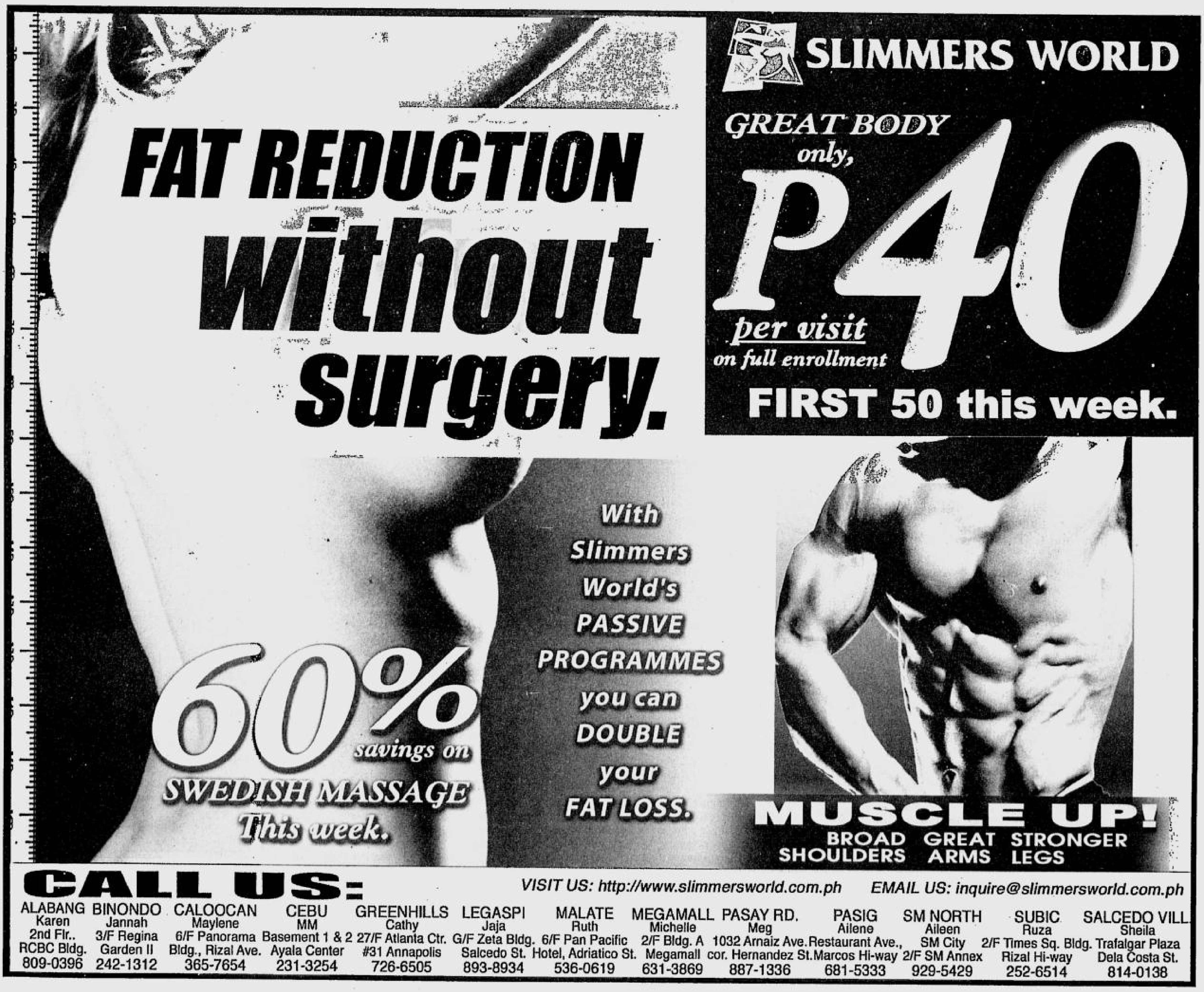
Market conditions

TotalFinalElf, the biggest of the new oil players, said it was still studying market conditions.

Last month, industrialist Raul Concepcion said he saw a possible oil price increase by an average of 12 centavos per liter because of changes in crude prices and foreign exchange rates in July and August.

"It is up to the oil firm concerned whether to increase prices or postpone it until the end of September," Concepcion said then.

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said it might be better to implement the increase now so that possible price increases next month would not be too high.


SLIMMERS WORLD
GREAT BODY only,
P40
per visit
on full enrollment
FIRST 50 this week.
FAT REDUCTION without surgery.
With Slimmers World's PASSIVE PROGRAMMES you can DOUBLE your FAT LOSS.
60% savings on SWEDISH MASSAGE This week.
MUSCLE UP!
BROAD SHOULDERS GREAT ARMS STRONGER LEGS

CALL US:

VISIT US: http://www.slimmersworld.com.ph EMAIL US: inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY RD.	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	SALCEDO VILL.
Karen	Jannah	Maylene	MM	Cathy	Jaja	Ruth	Michelle	Meg	Ailene	Aileen	Ruza	Sheila
2nd Flr..	3/F Regina	6/F Panorama	Basement 1 & 2	27/F Atlanta Ctr.	G/F Zeta Bldg.	6/F Pan Pacific	2/F Bldg. A	1032 Arnaiz Ave.	Restaurant Ave.,	SM City	2/F Times Sq. Bldg.	Trafalgar Plaza
RCBC Bldg.	Garden II	Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Ayala Center	#31 Annapolis	Salcedo St.	Hotel, Adriatico St.	Megamall	cor. Hernandez St.	Marcos Hi-way	2/F SM Annex	Rizal Hi-way	Dela Costa St.
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	929-5429	252-6514	814-0138

100% soy ink

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 295
ISSN
0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

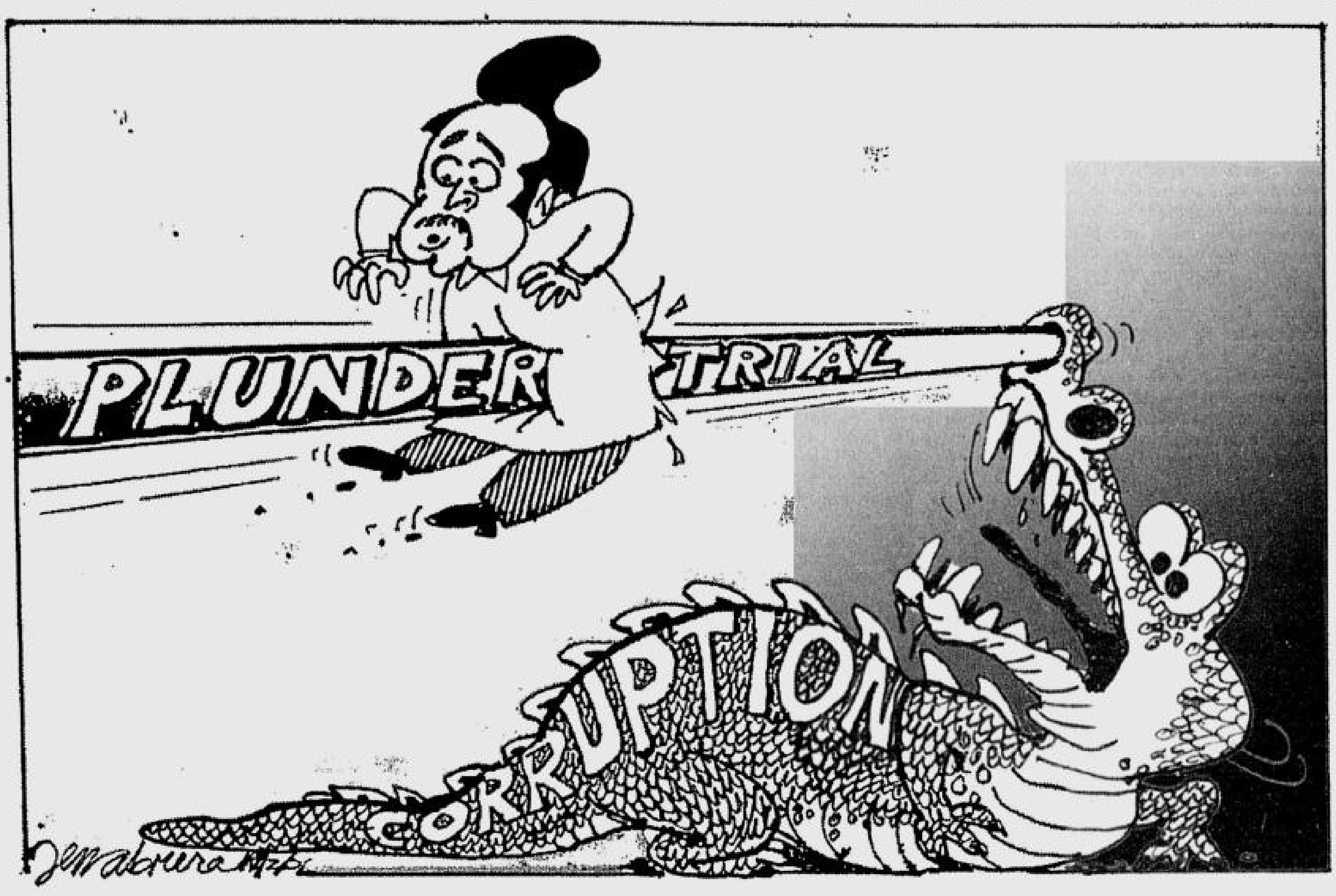
LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor
ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor
ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor
NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor
PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor
GERRY LIRIO
City Editor
ROSARIO A. GARÇELLANO
Senior Deskperson
JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor
FRANCOISE B. JOAQUIN
Night Editor
AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman
ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President
RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing
DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services
FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising
GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.



EDITORIALS

Just in time

THE SIGNING into law of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 last Saturday is a victory for the Macapagal administration—but a victory of the Pyrrhic kind. For the second time in eight months, the President has managed to coax and cajole Congress into passing a major legislative measure against great odds. But just like the power reform law, RA 9160 raises more questions than answers. It also puts in an unflattering light the art of lawmaking, Philippine style.

We have no quarrel with the intent of the various dirty-money bills, or with the urgency of the need to pass a law that will finally criminalize money laundering, or with the legislators' obvious duty to help Philippine banks avoid the sanctions the international banking community will likely impose. And we do not for the moment, wish to discuss the merits of the new law, which critics have called depending on which side of the political fence they are on, either watered-down or railroaded. We only wish to belabor the obvious: this is no way to make law.

To be sure, the Macapagal administration only inherited the problem. The Financial Action Task Force, the money-laundering watchdog of the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development, informed the Philippines of the urgent need to close the banking loopholes through which dirty money is funneled in the Philippines in June 2000—over a year and three months ago. The lack of action since then may be explained by the obvious factors: the Estrada administration's demonstrated incompetence and sense of drift; the drama of the country's first-ever impeachment trial in the last quarter of the year, which drew the all-consuming attention of both the Senate and the House; the change of government in January this year; the elections in May, which reconstituted the membership of both chambers of Congress.

Given this sorry history, the passage of the law just a day before the Sept. 30 deadline set by the FATF is a true legislative feat. It demonstrates, as in the case of the power reform law, that an administration that came to power with a moral rather than an electoral mandate has the political will to deliver on the policies and programs it has set its heart on.

In victory, Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho was Churchillian in his magnanimity. "This is a heroic act for our lawmakers. I can't believe it has gotten this far," he said last Friday, at a time when lawmakers were hammering the final version in yet another all-night bicameral conference committee meeting.

"It will take us again until the wee hours of the morning but there will be an anti-laundering law," Senate President Franklin Drilon said that same night. "The only question is, in what form."

As with many an end-game, the focus was on beating the clock.

Not this time

IN A CULTURE that worships basketball players who habitually win game by beating the buzzer, the just-in-the-nick-of-time passage of the dirty money law may be seen and understood indulgently. But political maturity lies in another direction; the public should expect their senators and representatives to make judicious use of the power of legislative deliberation. Congress should, as the famous expression phrases it, act with deliberate speed.

Last Friday, speaking at the newly renamed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, the President sought to justify the legislative rush with an argument from practicality: "But if we debate and debate until we have a perfect bill, the measure will not be ready by Sept. 30. Then the sanctions will start."

The conclusion is valid, but the major premise is misleading. The object in lawmaking has never been to craft a perfect bill; some legislators may have an inflated sense of who they are, but they are not in the perfection business. They just need to make sure of one thing: that the legislative oven does not make half-baked laws.

Adding insult to injury in multi-billion tax credit scam

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

REMEMBER the multi-billion tax credit scam this column reported last year? To refresh your memory, this is the scam perpetrated by a number of companies which, instead of paying taxes, are refunded amounts through tax credit certificates. The certificates are then sold by the claimants to other companies which use them to pay taxes to the government. Get it? The claimants are refunded taxes they never paid; they then make money from the sales of the certificates to third parties, companies with large taxes due.

The system was created by the Department of Finance during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos to encourage exports. It did not. What it encouraged were unscrupulous operators who cheated the government of billions of pesos in taxes.

Because of the scam, the oil companies now owe the government more than P1.5 billion in unpaid taxes. They are the biggest buyers of the spurious tax credit certificates (TCCs). Shell bought P917.6 million worth of TCCs from 20 supposed exporting companies, while Petron, ironically a government corporation, bought P679.3 million from 11 companies. The two oil firms then used these TCCs to pay their taxes to the government.

The biggest seller of these TCCs is the Chingkoe group of companies which is composed of 33 subsidiaries and affiliates. These companies are now facing charges for the scam.

Now comes the unkindest cut of all. Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison has indicated his desire to nominate a certain Reynaldo Dizon as deputy executive director of the One-Stop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS) and concurrent chair of Task Force 156, the inter-agency body investigating the tax credit scam and tasked to prosecute the alleged perpetrators.

On the surface, there is nothing wrong with the nomination. But sleuthing showed that Dizon, who is a lawyer, is related to the customs brokerage firm that facilitated the importations made by the companies owned by Faustino Chingkoe, who is accused as the biggest perpetrators of the tax credit scam. Latest DOF estimates showed that Chingkoe and his companies allegedly defrauded the government of at least P2.5 billion.

Dizon is said to be the son of Alejandro F. Dizon, who owns A.F. Dizon Customs Brokerage Inc. The issue here is conflict of interest. How can the younger Dizon, as the concurrent head of Task Force 156, effectively prosecute the very client of his father's brokerage firm? Prosecuting the Chingkoes is a messy affair since it involves the recovery of billions of taxes due to the government.

Would not Dizon's hands be tied the moment he initiates criminal prosecution of the Chingkoes? The conflict of interest issue would afflict him and he may end up defending himself.

Anybody who is qualified is welcome to assume the post of OSS deputy executive director and chair of Task Force 156. But there should be no conflict of interest. The person in those positions should not be connected in any way to the Chingkoes, the principal defendant in the tax credit scam charges.

There are so many job hunters afflicting the Macapagal administration. The search committee is supposed to make background checks on the applicants and recommendees. But as in the appointment of Gil M. Valera—a principal leader of Jeep ni Erap—as deputy customs commissioner, the committee has done a lousy job in checking the background of Reynaldo Dizon. They are making President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the laughingstock of the world.

She should proceed carefully when appointment papers are presented to her for her signature.

* * *

The Department Environment and Natural Resources is making light of the reported mercury pollution of Balayan Bay from the emissions of the coal-powered Calaca Power Plant. Coal has very high mercury content. The power plant is dumping its coal ash into the sea; its smokestacks spew mercury-laden smoke into the air. Greenpeace has found dangerous air and water pollution around the Calaca Power Plant, but the DENR, while admitting the pollution, claims that it is within tolerable levels.

That was also what the DENR said about the mercury pollution in and around the mining camps in Diwalwal, Davao del Norte. But only last week, 11 persons there died of mercury poisoning.

That is what always happens. Lazy government bureaucrats belittle warnings of threats to the health of the people until some of them actually start dying. Then these bureaucrats scramble to cover their asses and look for scapegoats.

The warning of widespread mercury pollution, by the way, was made not only by environmental NGOs but also by the toxicology department of the University of the Philippines and the Philippine General Hospital whose team actually went to the areas at risk and examined the people there for mercury poisoning. The DENR better believe their findings: fully 36 percent of the residents of Diwalwal have dangerous levels of mercury in their bodies.

Rich country, poor country

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHEN you're a rich country, you're called God-fearing. When you're a poor country, you're called God-forsaken. When you're a rich country, you're called pious. When you're a poor country, you're called fanatical. When you're a rich country, you're called righteous. When you're a poor country, you're called devious. When you're a rich country, you're called by many titles. When you're a poor country, you're called by many names.

When you're a rich country, the death of one of your citizens is called news. When you're a poor country, the death of one of your citizens is called noose. When you're a rich country, the death of many of your citizens is called a tragedy. When you're a poor country, the death of many of your citizens is called a farce. When you're a rich country, the murder of many of your citizens is called a crime. When you're a poor country, the murder of many of your citizens is called a war. When you're a rich country, a deliberate attack on your men, women and children is called terrorism. When you're a poor country, a deliberate attack on your men, women and children is called population control.

When you're a rich country, your sobs are heard for a year. When you're a poor country, your tears are seen for a day. When you're a rich country, your dead are called heroes. When you're a poor country, your dead are called victims. When you're a rich country, you hold on to the memory of those who perished in the flames. When you're a poor country, you bury your dead, like Eleanor Rigby, along with their names. When you're a rich country, your dead have names. When you're a poor country, your dead have tags.

When you're a rich country, an attack on your most populous city is an act of war. When you're a poor country, an attack on your most populous city is an act of God. When you're a rich country, a bombing in your country is the product of lunatics. When you're a poor country, a bombing in your country is the product of retaliation. When you're a rich country, you have done nothing to deserve to be pitilessly wounded. When you're a poor country, you must have pissed off somebody very badly to be so grievously hurt. When you're a rich country, you are called innocent. When you're a poor country, you are pronounced guilty.

When you're a rich country, you are called resolute when you plan to strike back. When you're a poor country, you are called impetuous to even think to strike back. When you're a rich country, you are called wise to rattle the saber. When you're a poor country, you are called foolish to escalate the violence. When you're a rich country, you are called a general to roll the drums of war. When you're a poor country, you are called a rabble-rouser to sound a call to arms.

When you're a rich country, you wage a global war against terrorists. When you're a poor country, you drag the world in flames. When you're a rich country, you are called just. When you're a poor country, you are asked just what are you doing. When you're a rich country, you get the world to fly to your side. When you're a poor country, you get the world to fly off the handle. When you're a rich country, the world asks you when and how you mean to fight back. When you're a poor country, the world asks you why and who you mean to fight against.

When you're a rich country, your dead are innocent civilians. When you're a poor country, your dead are casualties of war. When you're a rich country, your dead harbored only goodwill toward men. When you're a poor country, your dead harbored only terrorists. When you're a rich country, you say that bombs are dumb and kill the good as well as the bad. When you're a poor country, you accept that bombs are smart and kill only their intended targets. When you're a rich country, the bodies under the rubble are unnatural baggage. When you're a poor country, the bodies lying on the sand are collateral damage.

When you're a rich country, the hundreds who wander in your streets are called homeless. When you're a poor country, the thousands who wander in your sands are called refugees. When you're a rich country, you eat in soup kitchens and build fires to keep off the wintry cold. When you're a poor country, you eat in mess halls and huddle with your kids to keep the off the desert winds. When you're a rich country, homelessness is a cause for alarm. When you're a poor country, refugees are as natural as the dark of night.

When you're a rich country, not joining an international effort to fight global warming is called pursuing national interest. When you're a poor country, not joining an international effort to fight terrorism is called selfishness. When you're a rich country, ignoring international protocols on nuclear disarmament is called pragmatism. When you're a poor country, ignoring an international call to send a Stone Age country back to the Stone Age is called cynicism.

When you're a poor country, people who publish the lyrics of John Lennon's "Imagine" in newspapers are Yoko Onos. When you're a poor country, people who imagine all the people living life in peace are yokels. When you're a rich country, patriotism is the heaven of minstrels. When you're a poor country, patriotism is the refuge of scoundrels. When you're a rich country, people who believe in fists are patriots. When you're a poor country, people who believe in words are idiots. When you're a rich country, people who believe in war are cool. When you're a poor country, people who believe in peace are fools.

When you're a rich country, you say only that right is might. When you're a poor country, you see only that might is right.

Drama over anti money-laundering bill

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ON MONDAY noon, Sept. 24, at a lunch caucus, Senate President Franklin Drilon presented to the senators the documents showing the Philippines' links to money-laundering activities, as furnished him by the executive-director of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the watchdog for money matters of the rich economies. Drilon explained the FATF's demand for a law to combat the crime of money laundering by the Sept. 30 deadline, and at that point majority of the senators were convinced to endorse the report of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay's committee on banks.

When the session resumed that afternoon, after a three-week recess, the report was filed and debates got underway. It was a race against time, and the lawmakers imposed on themselves the sacrifice of foregoing privilege speeches, confining themselves only to interpellations.

* * *

But at the end of that session Drilon easily realized that the chamber wouldn't be able to pass the bill unless it was shortened and all objectionable and sticky points were removed. One of the stickiest points involved the listing of the "predicate crimes," and he recommended paring them from the original 24 crimes in the consolidated Senate version to only four. Drilon tasked Magsaysay to have two shorter versions prepared, which were then presented to the House of Representatives and to the senators at another caucus last Tuesday. From Monday to Thursday noon, the period of interpellation was held in marathon sessions, followed by a 15-hour non-stop period of amendments when sometimes as many as five senators would be talking all at the same time.

* * *

At that point Drilon welcomed the amendments suggested by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara. In effect there became two sponsors of the bill, as Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda noted: one from the majority, Magsaysay, and another from the minority, Angara. Decidedly the most *mabusisi* in scrutinizing the bill was Sen. Serge Osmeña, who wanted to know why bribery and malversation of funds were not included in the predicate crimes. Drilon's answer: because they were already included in the anti-graft law. The senators seemed to be overeager to penalize everything, including cockfighting under the "illegal gambling" category (though ultimately only *jueteng* and *masiao* made it to that category). They held their breath with regard to inclusion of plunder, fearful that the opposition, led by Sen. Luisa Estrada, would raise hell, now that Estrada's trial was about to open. But finally when no one was looking, that was squeezed in.

By 1 a.m. Friday, 19 out of 24 senators present voted on the second and final reading of the bill. By 9. am. it was back to work. This time the bicameral conference committee was at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas grounds to reconcile the two chambers' versions.

* * *

On the part of the House, Speaker Joe de Venecia pointed out that all through the three-week recess, his chamber worked on reconciling the 11 versions of the anti-money laundering bill, including his own bill. The major work was done by the bill's principal author, Rep. Jaime Lopez of Manila, who chairs the banks committee; Rep. Oscar Moreno, chair of the economic affairs committee, and Rep. Nonoy Libanan of the justice committee. De Venecia shepherded the bill every day after his arrival from an inter-parliamentary meeting in Bangkok.

But unlike in the Senate where the deliberations took off on the opening day, in the House, the first two days of session were stymied by the controversy spawned by the issue of the "Gang of Five," the group of alleged "extortionist" Congress members. It wasn't until 11 a.m. Wednesday that actual deliberations started. Realizing his handicap, De Venecia resorted to his typical creative way: while the debates were going on in the plenary session that day, he created a committee of eight members, four from the majority and four from the minority, to draft the House bill. Using his legendary persuasive powers, De Venecia presented it to his colleagues, and by 4 a.m. Thursday, it was passed by the House on third and final reading, with 120 votes for approval.

* * *

By 8 a.m. that morning, De Venecia was off to Malacañang for a breakfast conference with President Macapagal, Senate President Drilon, and the senators and House members who had authored the bill, the approved House bill tucked under his arm. Its passage by the House put pressure on the Senate, recalls De Venecia, as Drilon still didn't have the Senate version passed. But the Speaker was in for unforeseen trouble. During the bicameral conference committee session at the Bangko Sentral beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, House contingent leader Jimmy Lopez's principal headache came from the dissenters within his panel. In fact there seemed to be several panels from the House. For instance, Rep. Benasing Macarambon was worried about the implications of this law's being linked to the country's anti-terrorism stance.

One senator observed that whereas the Senate went hammered out every line in its version of the bill, the House managed to pass its version without much effort. Thus, some House members were hearing the provisions only for the first time at the conference committee.

* * *

At the committee, the two chambers locked horns for over five hours on the issue of the need for a court order to freeze accounts. There were those who feared the FATF would find it too constricting. So contentious was the issue that Drilon and De Venecia had to be summoned by their people. At some point, in fact, Drilon was invited to talk to the House group and he brought along Senators Magsaysay, Kiko Pangilinan and Rene Cayetano. They went over the tough issues one by one with the House group and De Venecia kept telling his colleagues, "*Okay na yon. Okay na yon.*" The House raised the list of "predicate crimes" from the four in the Senate version to the final 14, and the number of pages from the Senate's seven to 14 pages. By 9:30 p.m., Drilon felt confident enough to leave the Bangko Sentral but De Venecia stayed on guarding his panel man to man up to 3 a.m. last Saturday.

Back in the House, about 120 members were waiting impatiently to ratify the final version. Finally, at 4 a.m., the conference committee report was finished, and in the presence of Bangko Sentral Gov. Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who looked like expectant fathers, it was signed by both panels.

Then it was back to each chamber for ratification. By 12:30 p.m. Saturday, the Senate had ratified the bill, but in the House it was delayed, because points passed or deleted had to be explained. Finally, at 3:15 p.m. House members voted 129 to 12 to pass the measure.

At 6 p.m., President Macapagal signed RA 9160.

Red Cross is red hot

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE NEWS from Hollywood is that the Red Cross is red hot again. Sandra Bullock is reported to have donated $1 million to the American Red Cross in the wake of the Sept. 11 disasters, while Madonna is said to have pledged the proceeds of her upcoming concert to the same cause.

Scores of entertainers, from Broadway talents to recording stars and film and TV actors are giving of their time and talent to mount shows and telethons to benefit the families of those who died in the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies. Benefiting as well are organizations whose personnel were in the forefront of the effort to save lives, foremost among them the Red Cross.

We in the Philippines know of the Red Cross as well, since it plays a prominent role in each of the many disasters—typhoons, floods, fires, eruptions, earthquakes and even trash slides—that visit the country every year. After the May 1 march to Malacañang and the rout that followed, the Red Cross figured in the news footage when mobs attacked two of its ambulances, turning them over and setting them afire.

It was shocking not just because of the petty vandalism and violence, but especially because the Red Cross has always been above the fray, protected by international and local conventions against aggression. This is because the Red Cross is dedicated to alleviating the suffering of everyone caught in conflicts or disasters, regardless of nationality, faith, political affiliation or economic standing.

So established is the Red Cross in the public consciousness, in fact, that people have taken it for granted, assuming even if wrongly that it will always be around to mop up the consequences of human folly and natural disasters. That is, until events the likes of the Sept. 11 fiasco take place and we are jolted into sudden awareness.

***

TINGTING Cojuangco counts almost 30 years of involvement with the Philippine National Red Cross. As a young wife she would accompany her mother-in-law, Doña Demetria Sumulong Cojuangco, to meetings of the PNRC board. "I didn't know or care what was going on at that time," she recalls with amusement. "I thought they were the most boring things."

But when Tingting herself became involved in politics, especially after she became governor of Tarlac in 1992, she became a Red Cross "volunteer leader" herself. "I was very happy working with the Red Cross in Tarlac," she declares. "At that time, we were facing so many humanitarian emergencies, dealing with the consequences of the Pinatubo disaster and looking after the families in the relocation sites. The Red Cross was always there with me. The Tarlac provincial government and the Red Cross pooled their resources, and we worked very well together."

So when the current PNRC board of governors, now chaired by former Justice and Rep. Leonor Ines Luciano, called on Tingting to help in their latest fund-raising effort, she had no qualms about volunteering her time and effort. It was for the Red Cross, after all.

***

TINGTING co-chairs, with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, the National Search Committee for the Millennium Miss Philippines Red Cross.

"It isn't, and we don't want it to be, like other beauty contests," says Tingting, herself a renowned beauty. The project is not just meant to raise funds for the PNRC, but also to identify young women who best exemplify the Red Cross ideals of service to humanity and volunteerism, and to select from their ranks a young woman to serve as an "ambassador of humanitarian service."

In the months since the search began, Tingting and the other officers of the committee have been going around the country drumming up support from among the various chapters not just for each chapter's candidate, but also for other Red Cross services, especially blood letting.

"It's not true that every candidate for Miss Red Cross has to donate blood," laughs Tingting, although many do and have in fact been donating blood even before they joined. While physical attractiveness is a factor, Tingting says they are placing greater importance on the young women's accomplishments, leadership and record of service.

In some chapters (there are 86 around the country), the search for the local Miss PNRC is conducted as a fund-raising event or "popularity contest." The candidate with the most number of ballots sold comes out the winner, with the proceeds going to fund the projects of the local chapter. No ballots need be sold, though, for the national search. The PNRC officers hope to raise enough sponsors to underwrite the expenses of the finals, which will be held in December. Already, the Manila Hotel has signed up as a sponsor and will play host to the candidates and the awards night.

The PNRC was able to raise P6 million from its last search, held in observance of its 50th anniversary in 1997. They hope to surpass that amount this year, as well as to drum up interest in and support for the many causes of the Red Cross.

***

THOUGH created by law and tasked to coordinate its efforts with government agencies, the Red Cross is a private and autonomous humanitarian agency.

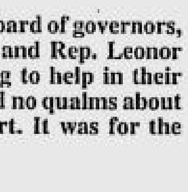
It receives funding support from government agencies, but the amounts are not regular allocations, varying in size and in frequency. Though the PNRC requires P292 million a year to fund its different activities and projects, barely a quarter of that budget is sourced from government. The shortfall has to be filled by private donations, including the proceeds of such events as the Search for Millennium Miss Philippines Red Cross.

Fortunately, the search is taking place just as people's awareness and appreciation of the value of the Red Cross is peaking. May this red hot interest translate into lasting support as well.

The bishops and our churches

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



IN THE LATE 1980s Rome, aware that there was a need to preserve ecclesiastical patrimony, advocated changes in the curriculum of seminaries to develop not merely spiritual formation but the formation of aesthetic sensibility. Theoretically, if that injunction had been taken seriously, some of the barbarities, barbarisms *atbp. kabaduyan* would not have been inflicted on the Filipino's religious heritage.

As far back as 1992 Jaime Cardinal Sin formed an archdiocesan Permanent Committee for the Cultural Heritage of the Church for the conservation of the patrimony and history of the church. Last Sept. 17 to 20, the commission led by Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak, Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos, Fr. Ted Torralba and Fr. Joesilo Amalla organized the 2nd Biennial National Convention of Church Cultural Heritage Workers in Butuan City. It was serious enough that Rome sent Archbishop Francesco Marchisano, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church in the Vatican, as keynote speaker and Dr. Ma. Cristina Carlo-Stella, one of the officials of the commission and the only woman member of the Roman Curia.

Aside from Bishops Tumulak and Pueblos, as far as I could see there weren't any other bishops around nor were representatives in some cases even sent. (One young priest couldn't figure out how to defy or correct his bishop who was one of those who thought he knew everything.) This is a pity because the meeting was primarily for the bishops. A parish priest who agrees to roof an ancient ruin or add a sacristy in a style diametrically opposed to the architecture of his church does so only with permission from his bishop. The latest to fall is the church in Hagonoy whose *palitada* or protective facing is being removed in order "to make it look more authentic."

In several workshops, conferences and conventions over the past few years, the subject of exposing ancient adobe stones and bricks has been brought up and the danger to the structural material discussed. For the nth time, the old *palitada* was not added for decorative purposes but to protect the stones. Perhaps if our churchmen would only listen, they may learn something and save some money at that.

Despite Vatican recommendations the curriculum in our seminaries remains unchanged, as wanting apparently in that discipline as any local school. The subject of aesthetics or art appreciation is considered perhaps as useless for the salvation of your soul as for earning your livelihood. It would no doubt help if priests assigned to churches a hundred or more years old were given some form of orientation, some historical background of events in that parish and the role the church may have played. This could prompt them to desist from destroying features linking the structure to the past, for instance.

Two years ago at the first biennial convention held in Bohol, a resolution was passed requesting Catholic Bishop's Conference for grants or scholarships for church cultural heritage workers, urging support for local legislation protecting cultural heritage properties and guidelines for doing inventories, documentation and preservation/restoration work. These were just some of the more salient recommendations. They weren't done.

The bottom line here appears to be the lack of understanding of the need of cultural anchors for a people's well-being or the manner in which our lives are enriched, our sensibilities broadened by the past. We as a people do not seem to understand or, more precisely, do not wish to understand that landmarks (and these include the old names of streets) give people a sense of security in a changing world. Or that a people's patrimony can engender national self-esteem unlike, for instance, those negotiated monuments that mayors keep insisting on installing to add to the pollution.

Chita Gatbonton, one of the lecturers, opted to defend the bishops by pointing out that the latter had received their spiritual formation at the time after Vatican II when the Church felt simplicity was more in keeping with the poverty of spirit and identification with the poor. Does not the First Commandment also warn against "strange gods" and thus priceless images were sold, given away to "friends," or warehoused at risk from termites, rats and insects: Ostentatious displays of gilt, crystal and silver were frowned upon and these too ended up in antique shops or in private collections.

The funny thing in all this is that no one questioned (at least not in these parts) why the Vatican collection was not auctioned off or why churches like Maria Maggiore or John Lateran were left standing if preferential option for the poor meant that the poor deserved only the tawdry and cheap. Because what eventually replaced these hallowed images of ivory or molave were plaster of Paris statues from Gagalangin and bare fluorescent bulbs in place of chandeliers.

There are cases where colonial churches were torn down and replaced by new structures for no reason that anyone can explain today. But in the meantime, the destruction continues and many of the bishops remain as intransigent as ever. No doubt they have better things to do with their time, more problems to deal with than preserving a people's heritage. If you think about it they're no better than your local officials, cut from the same cloth except, of course, that they're not thinking of the next election or providing for their future. Still the result is the same.

Minas on my mind

YOUNGBLOOD

Jasmin T. Marquinez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I was very young and not yet in school, my mom would let me spend my summer vacations in Minas, a small barrio in Victoria two towns away from our home in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro. My aunt had a cozy, two-story wooden house there. And it was there that I experienced greater freedom and discovered new things.

In Minas, I had a playmate who lived in a house at the other end of an unpaved street. My playmate's place had a pump from which the barrio people fetched their drinking water. The house was like the barns that you see in foreign movies, with long vertical pieces of wood forming the walls. But this was a two-story house and there the clucking of chickens could be heard constantly. The metal pump stood to the right of the house, and it was there where I first saw the boy while my cousins and I were getting some water.

The boy was arranging plastic water containers near the pump. He was wearing only a pair of shorts and sporting a wet look with his hair all damp and dripping down his small, thin body. I wondered why he was wet when there wasn't even a drizzle.

No, there was no mysterious electric current running through my being when my cousin introduced me to him. There was not even a single spark of fanciful childish attraction. Even as a child, I knew I would rather have a "thing" about older boys, not his little brother or anyone close to my own age.

He was small, and since I was also little, I supposed we were of the same age. At the time I didn't know that size does not necessarily determine how old or young a human being is. But what the heck, I wanted to believe that he was as young as I was and I did not want to be wrong, so that assumption settled the issue in my mind.

One morning, he invited me for a stroll along the creek at the foot of the mountain a little far from my aunt's house. There was not a hint of shyness that normal people exhibit when inviting near strangers the first time. He went about it very casually.

This did not bother me a bit. I just went with him without feeling the least bit guilty but rather thrilled by the idea of going to some place I had never gone before. So off we went together, but I don't remember how. Maybe h.h.s.s. (holding hands *at pa-sway, sway pa*).

That was when we started to go to a shallow creek with slippery rocks that were visible at the bottom. There we would catch small fishes of varied colors to be brought home and placed in a jar of water where we both could watch them swim and play inside the improvised mini-aquarium. The fishes would all die after several hours, and to this day I can still feel the sadness that came over me every time that happened. I could not help but feel sorry for those shiny red fishes and also those gray ones with yellow stripes on the fins, whenever I saw them floating on the clear water inside the jar the following morning.

When it happened my playmate was always there to console me with the promise to catch more fishes the next time we went to the creek.

It was also in Minas that I had the wonderful experience of playing a big part in the Flores de Mayo. As May approached, the old folks would ask my aunt to let me be one of the *sagalas* and play one of the *Tatlong Marias*. To me this was the best thing that ever happened in my young life for even at the tender age of 5 or 6, I already possessed an enormous amount of self-esteem. To feel like a queen and to be treated like one was the best part of it.

Before the traditional offering of the flowers to the Blessed Virgin started, all the kids would gather some wild flowers in many places around the barrio.

One late afternoon, everyone thought I must have gotten lost while picking flowers because I did not return to the grotto on time. They sent Kuya Manly (on whom I had a secret crush because he looked so handsome as he played basketball in front of their house near my aunt's) to look for me. I did not really lose my way but maybe I was too engrossed following a yellow butterfly that I chased while picking those long-stemmed, orange wild flowers to keep track of the time.

Sometimes, I would go to Lola Nini's canteen during snack time. Students of the school nearby use it as their hangout. Of course, Lola Nini would not let me pay for anything I consumed since she was my *lola*'s youngest sister. She would offer me home-baked hopia and cheap orange juice in tetra pack, and then tell me very nicely to take the lone table at the corner of her canteen. I would then take my sweet time finishing my snack that I could observe the students chatting and joking. But I wouldn't tarry too long lest my clothes smell like the viands she cooked. It's hard to believe that at that age I already had an intolerable amount of vanity.

Many years have passed since those happy summer days in Minas but the memory of the place never left me. I am all grown-up now and doing my college studies, but I never realized how far a time that was until I had my boy playmate for a classmate in my freshman year at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

I was sitting in the corner of the room minding my own business when someone sat beside me and suddenly blurted out, "Excuse me, but you're Ningning, right?" I got the surprise and scare of my life when he introduced himself and went on to remind me of those summers in Minas. I knew he was not lying or teasing me because nobody called me by that stupid nickname in the university. The way he addressed me also made me want to run away. I wanted to scream in his face and tell him bluntly that I was not enjoying it one bit.

He still had that casual attitude like when he first invited me to go with him to the creek 11 years earlier, but I was not thrilled anymore about what might happen next. In fact, I felt uneasy and puzzled that he still remembered me after all those years.

He was tall, big and pimply, and there was not a trace of the small, thin boy who arranged plastic containers beside the water pump many years before. I did not know what he thought about me. I had surely changed a lot, too, and I was feeling very uncomfortable. Or did I really change? But he did recognize me!

Just to make things clear, I still didn't feel a single tingle of romantic sensation that might suggest an attraction. Not a chance of it. As a matter of fact, to this day we only smile at each other whenever we happen to meet on campus. So many have changed that those days of catching fish in the days seem more like a dream than a part of my past.

Last year I went back to Minas, and once again, the small barrio's atmosphere brought me back to those fun childhood summer days. The buildings look much older now but Lola Nini's canteen was still there. The trees have grown bigger. The grotto didn't look the same, for the Virgin had lost its right hand and one of her crystal blue eyes had been plucked out of its socket. The creek was not clear anymore, and stagnant brownish mud water was flowing. I wondered if there were still shiny, red and gray fishes there.

I felt somewhat alienated in that place, remembering the Minas I knew 13 years ago. But then the smell of the air and the cool breeze from the mountains wafting through my body brought back many happy memories. My soul told me that Minas would always be my second home.

Jasmin Marquinez, 18, is a BA English Studies major at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

Empty cans making lot of noise

THERE was a time when great nations measured the mettle of its public officers by their professional accomplishments. Like the mythical Eliot Ness, the superior public servant, would work quietly, perform the job with great success and walk away without seeking acclaim or favor.

In the Bureau of Immigration, we are witnessing a complete reversal of this behavior. Our present media-savvy commissioner perhaps believes like people in show business that any publicity is good publicity.

In your editorial of Sept. 23, 2001, you exposed how some of our executive bureaucrats shamelessly, exploit any issue to obtain media exposure. At the risk of committing a crime, they would break into press conferences and utter unverified pronouncements inimical to the interests of the state. Causing the publication of any false news which may endanger the public or cause damage to the interest or credit of the State is an act punishable by the Revised Penal Code. During these dangerous times, we would do well to maintain intelligent silence and meditate on the gravity of the situation.

The last thing we need is an empty can that makes a lot of noise!—**CARLOS B. GUERRERO, Leon Guinto, Manila**

High-tech discrimination at LTO

LAST Sept. 13, 2001 I went to the Pasig-LTO to avail myself of the computerized system of the Land Transportation office to have my driver's license renewed. I endured the three-hour trip from Gen. Trias, Cavite, just so I would be spared more than a year of waiting in the province to receive my new license.

I was asked to give my tax identification number (TIN) as part of the new system and was instructed to wait for my name to be called after I surrendered my old receipt and license.

I was eager to see how fast the processing would be with the help of the much touted new, high-tech system of the Land Transportation Office. I thought it shouldn't take even 30 minutes now to renew my driver's license, free from red tape, fixers and *lagay* system.

In less than 10 minutes, my name was called. My photo was taken with a digital camera, and I signed on a digital pad and in a few minutes I expected have my new license.

My name was called again and I was directed to proceed to the cashier's window and pay the exact amount. "Wow, this is great!" I said to myself.

I sat down before the table where the technician was printing out the new cards. The technician asked where I had last renewed my license. I told him it was in Cavite.

He said I could not get my new card *"dahil sa probinsya ka galing."* I was utterly exasperated! I was asked to pose before the vintage camera and then I had to go through the old process of signing on a note card.

They issued me a temporary license and instructed me to get my new license card on **January 2002!**

I protested and demanded a good explanation. I was told they didn't have my data since I was from the province.

Wow. Is this the new high-tech system the LTO-DOTC is bragging about? They don't have my data? Just a few minutes earlier they were encoding my data on the computer and now I was being told they don't have my data? A highly sophisticated service system? Or a highly sophisticated culture of discrimination?

I went out of that office very unhappy. Outside I saw the big posters and notices saying in big old letters that fixers were not allowed in the area. So what were those men wearing only LTO shirts and blazers without official IDs doing in the compound? I know for sure that they were fixers.—**REV. FREDERICK T. MUNDA, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Buenavista Evangelical Church, Buenavista III, Gen. Trias, Cavite**

Wise people know Panasonic has important features other brands don't have.
New OneTouch Text & WAP ...fast!
ONLY ₱ 3,990 WITH SIMPACK + P300 FREE Airtime
- One Touch W@P
- One Touch TEXT
- One Touch Vibra
- One Touch Phonebook
- Dual-Band
- T9 Text input
- Game "4"
- Calculator
- Auto Phone On-Off
- Sim Toolkit 2
- Small
- Lightweight
- Ergonomic
- Clock / Alarm
- Large Display

Your wise choice!
GD35 Panasonic
Plan a "gmik" with your friends!
Enter the world of Panasonic GD35 and organize the whole evening from start to finish. The GD35's one-touch access to WAP and TEXT, plus a large visual display makes surfing, chatting, and texting easier and faster.
MANILA Wireless SM City Manila 4/F MAKATI Wireless Greenbelt Mall 3/F • Wireless 7/F Cocofed Bldg. Amorsolo St. QUEZON CITY Wireless SM Centerpoint 3/F MANDALUYONG Wireless SM Megamall 5/F LAS PIÑAS Wireless SM Southmall G/F and 2/F CAVITE Wireless SM City Bacoor 3/F PASIG Wireless 4/F Centerpoint Bldg. J. Vargas Ave. PARAÑAQUE Wireless Sucat Supercenter 2nd Level Hypermart Sucat Road CEBU Wireless SM City 3/F • Junrex SM City 3/F • Junrex Metro-Colon G/F Junrex Bogo P. Rodriguez St. MACTAN Junrex Gaisano G/F Main Entrance ILOILO Junrex SM City Cinema Level BACOLOD Junrex Gaisano Main Entrance • Junrex LTL Bldg. B Aquino Drive ORMOC Junrex Gaisano Main Entrance TACLOBAN Junrex Gaisano 2/F DAVAO Junrex Sazon Bldg. P. Reyes St. CHECK YOUR FAVORITE TELECOM SHOP IN OTHER AREAS FOR AVAILABILITY.

Sold in the Free World
Favored by Filipinos for decades, the rich golden taste of Marca Piña Soy Sauce can now be enjoyed as well in the United States.
Also sold in Canada, Italy, Malta, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Australia
MARCA PIÑA SOY SAUCE
PIÑAKAMASARAP!
PIÑAKAMASARAP CORPORATION
We, at MARCA PIÑA, join the world in praying for the victims and the bereaved families of the September 11, 2001 U.S. tragedy.

Who is delaying Valerio case?

I AM the presiding judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 81 in Quezon City handling the parricide case against Milagros Valerio, about which Solita Collas-Monsod wrote her column last Sept. 22, 2001 under the title "Innocent woman in jail."

Monsod stated that on the basis of the testimony of Modesto Cabador and Ruben Reyes, Milagros has been deprived of her liberty for the past 14 months and her motion for bail has still not been acted upon. She insinuated that it is the court which is causing the delay and she would like the public to believe that Valerio is innocent.

Yes, ours is a system that goes by the principle of "innocent until proven guilty." And, yes, like everyone else, Monsod is entitled to her own opinion. But to accuse the court of being the cause of the delay in resolving the motion to be admitted to bail is certainly objectionable.

If Monsod had only looked into the records of the case for parricide (a nonbailable offense), she would have found out that this case was originally raffled to Branch 103, also in Quezon City, which ordered the suspension of the arraignment of the accused upon her motion on the ground that she filed a petition for review with the justice secretary praying for the reversal of the resolution of the chief state prosecutor finding probable cause to indict her.

On July 11, 2000, she surrendered to the Davao police where she was allowed to be temporarily detained pending resolution of her petition with the Department of Justice. Since Branch 103 was designated by the Supreme Court to handle drug cases, Mila's case was reraffled to my court and an order was immediately issued directing her transfer from Davao to the Quezon City Jail and setting the arraignment for March 2001, considering that her petition for review had already been resolved by the DOJ with finality on Dec. 27, 2000.

Before her arraignment, Valerio filed several motions which were all promptly resolved by the court after considering the comments of the prosecution, except for her application for bail which could be determined only after the prosecution is given the opportunity to present, within a reasonable time, all the evidence it may want to produce, since it is equally entitled as the accused to due process.

After the charge was read to her and the other accused on April 16, 2001, a pre-trial conference was held on May 7, 2001 during which several hearing dates were reserved by the court exclusively for the case. During the hearing on May 21, 2001, the prosecution presented its first witness Modesto Cabador whose direct testimony was completed on the same date, after which defense lawyer Evalyn Ursua started cross-examining the witness.

In the meantime, Valerio through her counsel sought a certiorari from the Supreme Court and questioned the court's order recognizing the deceased Justice Valerio's sister, Laarni Valerio, as private complainant.

Ursua completed her cross-examination of Modesto after six hearings: on May 21, 2001, June 4, 2001, June 5, 2001, June 21, 2001, July 26, 2001 and Aug. 15, 2001. Notwithstanding the lengthy cross-examination conducted by Ursua, her other lawyer Dario Rama moved to also ask questions, which the court did not allow mindful of the summary nature of the application for bail. It is now the turn of the counsels of the other three accused Martin Jimenez, Samuel Baran and Geronimo Quintana to cross-examine Modesto.

Who is then causing the delay? Is it the court, the prosecution or Valerio herself? The answer is obvious.

If somebody told Monsod of the alleged snail-paced development in Mila's case, then she should have first verified the records from our court and asked someone learned in law about the procedure in trial and bail applications.

In the very few times that the hearing of the case were cancelled, the court was not at fault. If indeed there was undue delay, how come her lawyers did not seek my disqualification from further sitting in this case or move to have their application for bail resolved based on the basis of evidence thus far presented?

Finally, to conclude that Valerio is innocent because the stories of Modesto Cabador and Ruben Reyes are incredible and "propesterous," as Monsod claimed, is *sub judice*. Be that as it may, I will not allow public or anyone's opinion to affect my fairness and impartiality.—**MA. THERESA L. DELA TORRE-YADAO, presiding judge, Regional Trial Court Branch 81, Quezon City, Rm. B-19 to 20, Hall of Justice, Elliptical Road, Quezon City**

Terror bombing

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S becoming clear that many Filipinos do not want to be dragged into a new world war, but I suspect much of the anti-war sentiment comes from an instinctive fear of violence, of getting caught in the crossfire between the United States and a still faceless and therefore even more terrifying enemy.

Our opposition to war really needs to go beyond fear. We need to tackle the moral issues here, especially in the plans of the US government to include massive retaliatory strikes against Afghanistan.

I realized this need to move on to discussions about morality after receiving some strong reactions against an article I did two weeks ago, "Sowing dragons' teeth." Specifically, the readers were reacting to this statement: "From Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Desert Shield (actually Desert Storm) and now to Afghanistan, the American government has been too quick about bombing civilian populations."

One of the readers asked how I could speak against the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, arguing that this was the only way to end the World War II and spare American lives. Fortuitously, I found a copy of an American Journal, Foreign Affairs (January/February 1995), which had an article, "The atomic bombs reconsidered," by Barton Bernstein, a professor of history at Stanford University. Barton offers valuable facts and insights that should help us understand what went on in 1945 and how that relates to current events.

The United States began working on an atomic bomb in 1941, eventually pouring in $2 billion into the research. In an instance of historic irony, the top-secret US research program was code-named the Manhattan Project.

Originally, the intention was to use the atomic bomb on Germany but by mid-1944, it had become clear the war with Germany would end soon. Germany had been brought to its knees through conventional but still massively destructive firepower, air raids leveling many of its cities. Bernstein makes an important point here: "The firebombing of Dresden (a German city) had help set a precedent for the US Air Force. Supported by the American people, to intentionally kill mass numbers of Japanese citizens. The earlier moral insistence on noncombatant immunity crumbled during the savage war."

I was unaware of the extent of this "moral crumbling" until I read Bernstein's article. As early as March 1945, five months before the atomic bombs were used, the Americans launched a two-day air attack on Tokyo, with American B-29s dropping napalm to produce firestorms. Some 80,000 Japanese civilians were killed during those strikes.

The Americans involved in the development of the atomic bomb knew their new weapons were going to be apocalyptic. The scientists described the potential damage not just from the direct hits but also from the longer-term effects of radioactivity. Some of the scientists as well as military leaders were reluctant to use the atomic bomb but their voices were muted. Then, as today, Americans wanted retaliation, wanted blood.

Some historians point out that there was racism as well: a greater willingness to use the atomic bombs against a "yellow" race.

If there was horror in the speculation about the bombs, there was, too, a morbid fascination. J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the scientists involved in the research, described the visual effects of the bomb. "It will be accompanied by a brilliant luminescence which would rise to a height of 10,000 to 20,000 feet." The military strategists knew what they had, and historical archives now show that the objective of using the atomic bomb was not just to end the World War II but to display America's military might to the Soviet Union. Although an ally at that time, the Soviets were seen as a potential enemy in a post-war period. Bernstein bluntly calls the atomic bombings a "ratification of terror bombing."

The Americans finally unleashed the terror of the atomic bombs in August 1945. Oppenheimer estimated that an atomic bomb attack would kill 20,000 people. The two bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki claimed at least 115,000 lives, excluding others who were to die years after from radiation sicknesses.

More than 50 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we have to be more critical and ask: "Were the atomic bombs necessary to end the war? Why two bombs? Why were such densely populated cities chosen? Why, after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, did the Americans launch more air raids on Japanese cities, killing another 15,000 people?

The reader who asked me about Hiroshima and Nagasaki wonders if I'd forgotten the rape of Nanjing. He was referring to the Japanese assault on Nanjing from December 1937 to March 1938, during which some 360,000 Chinese, mostly civilians, were killed. I have not forgotten, certainly, but I do not believe that we can honor the dead by slaughtering more people. That is the sad legacy of the Manhattan Project, this warped idea that we can avenge the victims of war by waging more destructive wars, by outdoing each other in terror and force.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Other battles for the youth to fight

I'VE been keeping abreast of the ROTC issue. Opposing schools of thought seem to have agreed on the following points: First, that ROTC in colleges should be purged of corrupt military commandants and their stupid idea of what constitute discipline for the youth, i.e., push ups, drills, drying up under the scorching sun. Second, that there is need to train the youth as the country's reserve corps.

I disagree. Purging bad people in schools and their bad practices is diverting the program from more urgent problems of the country. First let's get rid of the idea of training the youth to have skills in arms use while the government is far behind in the acquisition of new expensive lines of hardware for killing the enemy. This backwardness can expose the youths to danger without the compensating possibility of winning the "new war" as announced to the world by US President Bush following the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Ours is a republic of a thousand islands. Our youth should be trained or should train themselves to swim for survival and not merely to win gold medals. Ours is a republic of denuded forests, disemboweled mountains, destroyed fresh water and marine fisheries, agricultural lands ravished by chemicals, and urban centers suffocated by garbage and pollution. The government has been neglectful in enforcing laws that are supposed to protect these natural resources. The people need a green and healthy nation more.

We don't need a reserve officers corps. We need the youth immediately to mobilize for a call to arms. Don't call this "community service" (implying an option not necessarily urgent) as a response to the massive unresolved problems of the threatened ecosystems.

The so called "market forces" that the government has been fearful of stopping from further devouring our economy (lest the foreign investors will not bring in their dollars) but instead is encouraging through its various destructive polices (like liberalization, deregulation, privatization), the youths and their teachers should address pronto.

A senseless tragedy like what happened to the WTC that fateful Sept. 11 sometimes gives us pause to rethink our priorities. Our natural resources have been openly ravished this last two decades. I'm calling on our youth and teachers (forget the silly military commandants) to mobilize, organize and reeducate the nation before we wake up one morning to a land that is no longer ours.—**RAUL E. SEGOVIA, 2864 C Zamora St., Pasay City**

2 Pinoys in Belgium raids deny harassment

BY D. PAZZIBUGAN

TWO of the 15 Filipinos in Belgium who were interrogated by the police on Sept. 20 have denied the report by a Manila-based migrant group that they were harassed for being immigrants.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday, the Philippine Embassy in Brussels said the two Filipinos, a married couple who lived in Schaarbeek, said the police were "discreet" and "general(ly) courteous."

In a separate statement, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. dared the affected Filipinos to "come forward" if they felt they were maltreated by the Belgian police.

Guingona said they would file a protest after "verifying" the facts. But so far, he said, the embassy reported that the involved Filipinos did not file any complaint.

The DFA read to reporters yesterday one of the two affidavits executed before the embassy last week.

The Filipino woman, whose name was withheld, said in her statement that she objected to Migrante International's claim that it was "open season for Filipinos and other people of color."

No problem

She said many Filipinos actually benefited from the Belgian government's alien regularization program.

"I have no problem with the method and the manner (of the questioning). They were discreet... We were provided snacks," she said in her affidavit.

The police reportedly have no record of her passport and personal circumstances. But she and her husband were released after being detained for eight to 12 hours.

She said she and her husband have not been harassed by local authorities in the 10 years they have lived in Belgium.

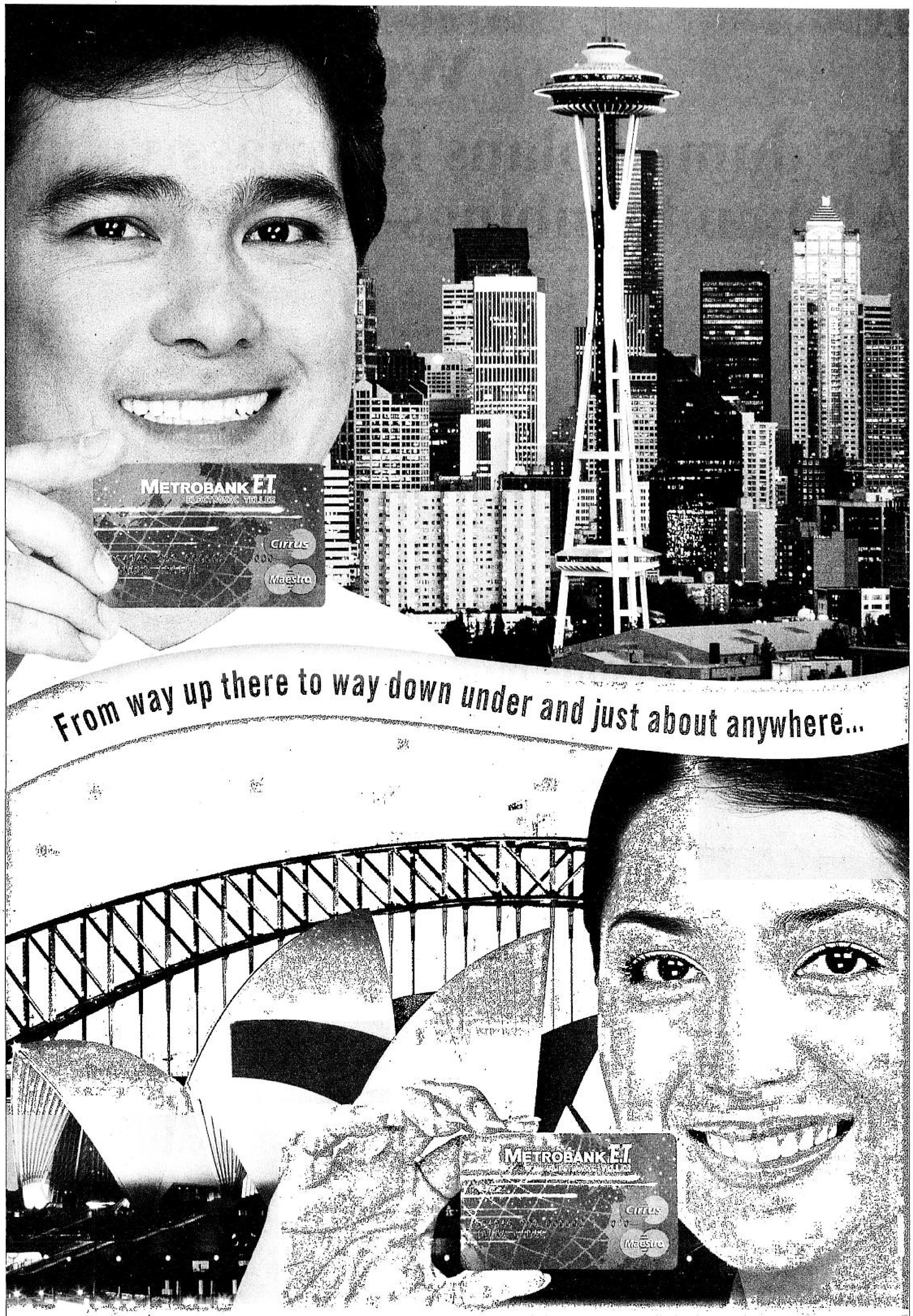
"If they were unhappy about anything, it's the fact that they lost half a day's work. And Ambassador (Clemencio) Montesa relayed that to the authorities," DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said.

Montesa, in his report to the DFA, said he had spoken with Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday to deny that Filipinos in Belgium were living in fear after the incident.

Beltran and other lawmakers have urged the DFA to protest the roundup and detention of 15 Filipinos suspected of illegally staying in the country. Two of them were deported while the others were released.

"Why would we cover up for anybody who is maltreating our nationals? But their statement is they were treated properly," Lecaros said.

"We've done it (file a protest) in the past but the catch is we should have sufficient basis. We don't want to embarrass ourselves," he added.



...you can withdraw cash with the new Metrobank E.T. international card.

Withdraw local currency in the country you're in anywhere in the world! With the new Metrobank E.T. international card, you'll never have to worry about carrying too much cash or making unnecessary trips to the money changers when you are abroad. The new Metrobank E.T. international card is accepted in over 600,000 Cirrus Maestro ATMs in over 100 countries.

Here in the Philippines, you can access your account through over 400 Metrobank E.T.s and over 1,600 BancNet ATMs nationwide. With your Metrobank E.T. international card you can:

- **Inquire about your balance**
- **pay your bills**
- **reload your pre-paid cell phone**
- **transfer funds to another Metrobank account***
- **transfer funds to another account in a BancNet-member bank***

So whether you're travelling for business or pleasure or just staying in the country, enjoy day and night ATM convenience with the Metrobank E.T. international card. Exchange your old Metrobank E.T. card with the new international card or open a Metrobank E.T. account with at least ₱2,000.00 initial deposit.

*Requires enrollment

Grab the chance to win any of these exciting prizes!

Grand prize:	1 unit loaded, all-power Toyota Altis
2nd prizes:	4 trips to Singapore for 2 plus US$500 pocket money
3rd prizes:	4 trips to Hong Kong for 2 plus US$500 pocket money
4th prizes:	4 trips to Bangkok for 2 plus US$500 pocket money
Consolation prizes:	12 Nokia 8890 cell phones

To qualify, just get your new Metrobank E.T. international card anytime until Jan. 31, 2002.

See flyers or visit any Metrobank branch near you for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1445, Series of 2001

You're in good hands with METROBANK

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices, and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; Web Page: www.metrobank.com.ph; E-mail: metrobank@metrobank.com.ph
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.00 per depositor.

A proud member of BancNet

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US dumps plans for massive Afghan bombings–Newsweek

WASHINGTON—Washington has shelved plans for bombing raids on Afghanistan because of a shortage of viable targets, opting instead to deploy special forces, Newsweek said in its issue appearing Monday.

The weekly news magazine said President George W. Bush's administration concluded that Afghanistan, where prime terror suspect Osama bin Laden is thought to be hiding out, has fewer good targets than Kosovo.

"The terrorist camps have emptied; the only good military targets, apart from a few TV and radar stations, militia headquarters and fuel dumps, are the Taliban's 'cavalry' of pickup trucks mounted with machine guns and rocket launchers," it said.

Going after such targets would be "more difficult than hitting the Pony Express," the magazine said, alluding to the 19th century US horse-borne mail service.

Officials, who had earlier leaned toward long-range bombing runs, have now decided to "aggressively" deploy special forces, possibly naval SEALs or green beret crack troops, to seek out Bin Laden and his followers, Newsweek quoted sources as saying.

Special forces operatives have already received orders for Afghanistan, it said, but could also be deployed in such places as Sudan or Lebanon to seek out terrorists as part of Bush's war against terror.

The weekly also said the administration had last week secretly told Congress, as required under the 1973 War Powers Act, that both British and US special forces reconnaissance teams had already been in and out of Afghanistan.

US reports have already claimed that special forces units had entered Afghanistan to collect intelligence on Osama bin Laden, his al-Qaida movement and on the Taliban regime who are sheltering him.

But, the magazine said, even as Washington stuck to a measured response to its Sept. 11 terror strikes that have left more than 6,000 people dead or missing, Bush was considering air strikes on Afghanistan's opium warehouses.

The report came as Britain warned Sunday that stockpiles of raw opium from Afghanistan were being moved out of the region ahead of military strikes, but played down reports that the trade was one of its war targets.

Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is the world's biggest sources of heroin, and the reports of stockpiling of opium have raised fears of a glut of heroin

THE EMPIRE State Building reopened its 86th floor observatory deck Sept. 29 for the first time since the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks giving the public a chance to view lower Manhattan minus the twin towers. The Empire State Building is now the tallest in New York at 102 stories.

REUTERS

Despite might, US still vulnerable

WASHINGTON—Top US defense chiefs stressed Sunday the array of weapons lined up on their side in the war on terrorism, but revealed their concern about continued US vulnerability to weapons of terror.

Their concerns echoed those in a draft Pentagon study, which said the current armed-forces structure put the US military at a "horrific risk" as it responds to new threats such as terrorism.

A copy of the study, obtained by the Daily Press of Newport News,. Virginia, warns that the 1.4 million active-duty troops might be ill-equipped to fight terrorism and the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction.

The study is due to be released later this week.

However, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the United States must be cautious in the face of possible further terrorist attacks, including missiles, cyber attacks, and the use of chemical or biological weapons on US targets.

"As a free people, we are vulnerable," he said. "Basically, they can use our way of life, and are technology to attack us."

He said that some countries the United States has identified as state sponsors of terrorism have weaponized biological and chemical compounds, and that "it doesn't take a leap of imagination" to be concerned about their use against the United States.

In his interview, Shelton agreed, but said the risk "should not prevent from doing what's right."

A CNN/Time poll published Friday showed that almost two-thirds of Americans fear US military action in Afghanistan will increase the likelihood of additional terrorist attacks in the United States in the next 12 months. *AFP*

Britain freezes Taliban accounts

BRIGHTON, England—Britain has frozen $88 million of assets linked to Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime, finance minister Gordon Brown was due to announce Monday.

The chancellor was to reveal the move in his keynote speech to the ruling Labor Party's annual conference, resuming in Brighton, southern England, in a mood dominated by the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

According to extracts from his speech given to the press, he was to stress the importance of cutting off the "lifeblood" flow of finance to terrorists.

The hardline Taliban regime is harboring Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect for the devastating suicide plane attacks on New York and Washington which are thought to have killed around 6,000 people.

The assets suspected of belonging to the Taliban were frozen in the London branch of a European bank, newspapers reported.

In his speech, Brown was expected to give details of the financial aspects of emergency legislation already announced by Prime Minister Tony Blair to crack down on terrorist networks.

They would include greater monitoring of bank accounts; stricter duties on banks to report suspicious activities; and more powers to freeze accounts from the onset of an investigation.

At home, Brown insists that Britain is well placed economically to withstand the burden of the global coalition against terrorism spearheaded by the United States.

He told BBC radio ahead of his speech that it was a responsibility that the government had to accept.

"We will pay the price that is necessary, the security, the military, indeed the international development responsibilities—we accept this," he said.

"Of course there are costs involved but we are, I think, as a country, better placed than 10 years ago, 20 years ago, to deal with costs because we did make the difficult decisions in 1997," when Labor took power. *AFP*

Former S. Vietnam president Thieu, 78

THIEU

WASHINGTON—Former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, who led his country through much of the Vietnam War only to flee into exile in its last days, died late Saturday at a clinic in the United States, a hospital spokesperson said.

The Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts, would not release details of the cause of death, but US media said Thieu, 78, was taken to the hospital Thursday after collapsing at his home in suburban Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Born April 5, 1923, Thieu joined the communist Viet Minh after World War II, but later switched sides and became a South Vietnamese army commander in the war against the communist northern regime of Ho Chi Minh.

Thieu was a leader of the coup, which unseated then-president Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963, and became president in 1967, two years after the United States had joined the war with combat troops. He was re-elected in 1971 in an election marred by charges of vote-rigging.

He reluctantly signed the 1973 Paris peace treaty which ended US military involvement in the conflict after receiving assurances of US aid, but none came as North Vietnam launched a final offensive in 1975.

Thieu abandoned the northern half of the country, leading to a rout, and was pressured into resigning in an effort to spur peace talks with the communists.

He fled into exile on April 21, 1975, as North Vietnamese armies closed in on Saigon, and lived in Britain for a time before settling in the United States.

His death came less than two months after that of his successor as South Vietnamese president, Duong Van Minh, the man who finally surrendered Saigon to the victorious communists.

But whereas Minh's death sparked sadness among Vietnamese communists, Thieu's death prompted few tears.

"He (Thieu) was a man who was completely and utterly opposed to both communism and the reunification of Vietnam," Hanoi's leading official historian, Duong Trung Quoc, said.

"He bitterly opposed his US sponsors over the Paris peace accords and even tried to sabotage them and prolong the war, creating an extremely tense situation which led to an escalation of the fighting," Quoc said.

"We were saddened by the death of Duong Van Minh because he contributed to the end of the war and took a reasonable decision in its final days. *AFP*

13 killed in Kashmir explosion

SRINAGAR, India—At least 13 people were killed and nearly three dozen injured yesterday in a powerful suicide bombing outside the state legislature building in Indian-administered Kashmir, police said.

A Pakistan-based Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying a suicide bomber drove near the legislature in a car laden with explosives.

The blast caused damage to at least 150 buildings around the tightly guarded legislature, including shops and a six-story hotel.

Police said 13 people died, including two policemen, one paramilitary personnel and a woman.

Witnesses said, however, that 15 people were killed in the blast.

"Many people bled to death as no one dared to rush to the spot," said Abdul Rashid, a local shopkeeper said.

Reports said gunfire was heard from inside the legislature after the blast and that two militants had managed to enter the building.

The explosion took place about 2 p.m. in the heart of Indian Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar, after Kashmir's Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and several of his Cabinet ministers had left, official sources said.

However the speaker of the Kashmir assembly, Abdul Ahad Vakil, and a few legislators were inside the building, the sources added. *AFP*

Straight news ● In-depth analysis ● Provocative columns

We'll deliver them all right at your doorstep.

INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

"The Largest Selling Newspaper Nationwide"

For Metro Manila home delivery, please call us at

528-01-83 • 528-01-86

or mail/fax reply coupon below to

✂- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building, 636 T. M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila Fax No. 528-02-34

I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Please have my copy delivered to:

Name ____________________
Address ____________________
____________________ Tel. No. ____________
Signature

News that makes a difference

Pope opens synod expected to rethink role of pontiff

VATICAN CITY—A weary-looking Pope John Paul II on Sunday opened a meeting of bishops from around the world, invited to say what's on their mind, including calls to re-think the supreme role of the pontiff and to give more power to the Church at local levels.

The month-long bishops' gathering, known as a synod, is part of John Paul's strategy to invigorate the Catholic church at the start of Christianity's third millennium.

The Vatican official in charge of the synod, Cardinal Jan Schotte, has predicted that there will be discussion about the primacy, or supreme role, of the pontiff, both with respect to other Christian confessions as well as internally in the Catholic Church.

John Paul himself has acknowledged that the papal primacy has been a stumbling block in his quest for closer relations with other Christians, notably Orthodox. The Pope has issued an encyclical on the question, but has made no concrete proposals about on how to deal with it.

Bishops filled in questionnaires to help set up the synod agenda. John Paul will listen for hours to nearly daily sessions of speeches by bishops before the synod wraps up on Oct. 27.

On Sunday, John Paul greeted some 270 synod participants, including bishops and cardinals from around the world, and told the men they must be shining examples of goodness for their flocks in meeting the challenges of modern times.

Bishops, he said, are called on "to be prophets who point out with courage the social sins tied to consumerism, to hedonism, to economies which produce an unacceptable divide between luxury and misery."

"In as much as we're talking about an arduous and tiring mission, let no one lose heart," John Paul said, trying to pep up his churchmen.

After returning to the Vatican Saturday night from his summer retreat villa outside Rome, where he had stayed for months except for a vacation in the Alps, weekly public audiences at the Vatican and September's grueling trip to Armenia and Kazakstan, John Paul appeared tired himself. The 81-year-old ailing Pontiff spoke slowly and tightly gripped the handbar of a wheeled-pedestal as aides guided him up the main aisle of the basilica. *AP*

Bangladeshis vote

DHAKA—Millions of voters went to the polls across Bangladesh yesterday to choose a 300-seat parliament in an election seen as a showdown between two former prime ministers and long-time foes.

Despite fears of widespread trouble, only a small bomb blast and other minor incidents were reported by mid-day as voters chose the country's eighth parliament since independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Heavy security was in place across Bangladesh in the wake of one of the country's bloodiest election campaigns, which saw more than 130 people killed and thousands injured.

More than 468,000 Police and Army personnel have been mobilized to keep the peace with further measures including a shutdown of mobile phone networks and a restriction on vehicle movements.

Much of the trouble has come as a result of the fierce rivalry between the two main parties, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Khaleda Zia and the Awami League of outgoing prime minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

The election, in which 75 million people are eligible to vote, is seen as a straightforward fight between the two, both former prime ministers and bitter rivals.

Sheikh Hasina, who in July became Bangladesh's first prime minister to complete a full term of office, was among the first voters to cast her ballot.

"I am confident people will vote for the boat (the Awami League election symbol) and Inshallah (God willing) we will win," she told reporters outside the polling center. *AFP*

A SECURITY person used a handheld metal detector to search a voter at the entrance to a polling center in Dhaka, Oct. 1. Over 75 million Bangladeshi voters went to polls to elect the country's 8th parliament since its independence from Pakistan in 1971.

AFP

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

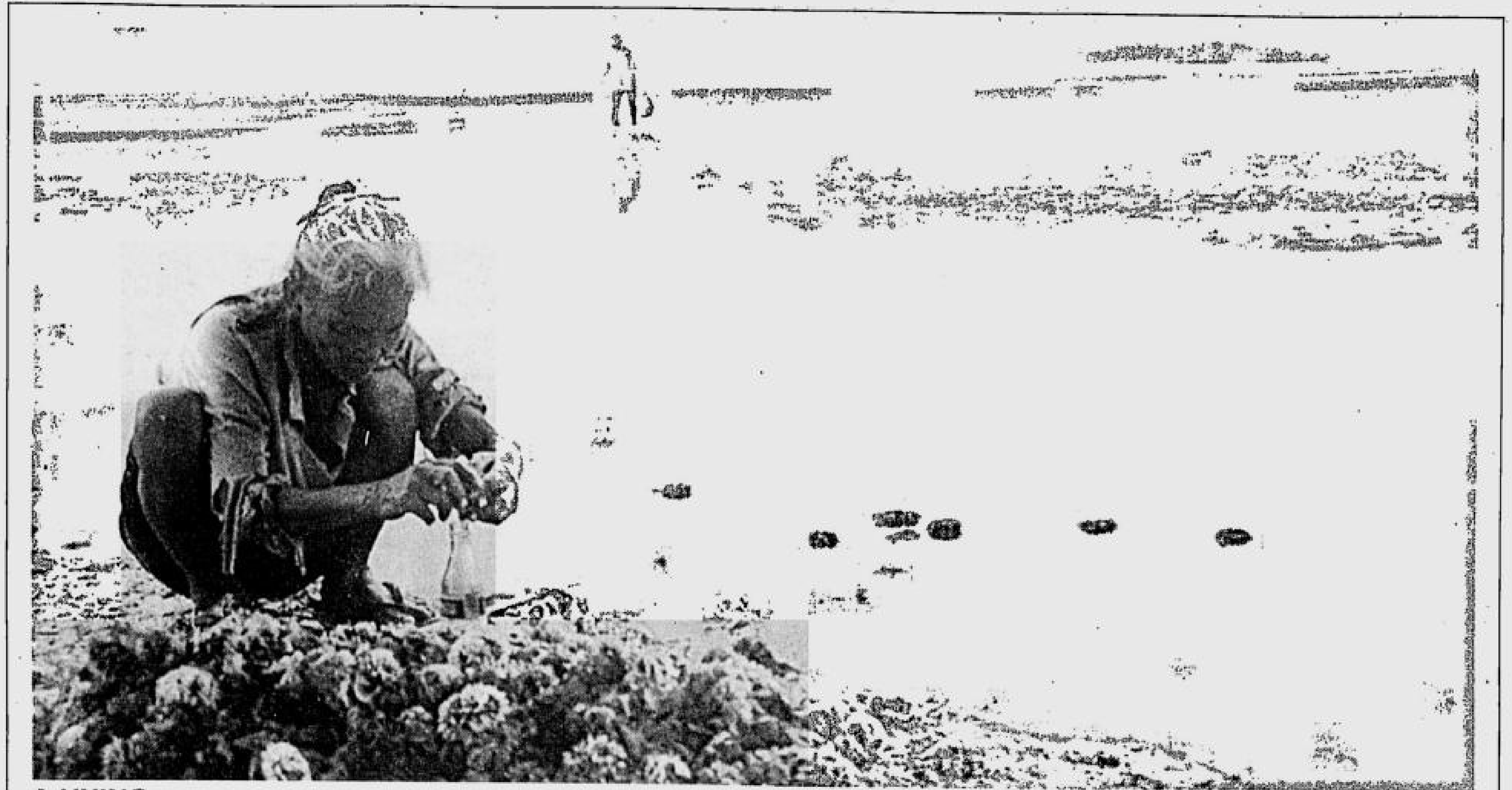
Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com



A LIVING

ROMY SANTOS

Some residents of Olango Island, east of Lapu-Lapu City, have known no other way to survive except to harvest whatever the sea is willing to yield. Such is the fate, the way of life, that befell this couple on the island who cope with the daily challenge of survival by gathering the gonads of sea urchins. A bottle of urchin gonads sells for P20.

Left sticks to ₱125 pay hike

BAGUIO CITY—The party-list group Bayan Muna will continue pushing for its proposed P125 across-the-board wage measure through Congress in the face of a looming world recession and a Malacañang commitment to limit a new wage hike to only P25, party-list Rep. Liza Masa of Bayan Muna said here.

Masa said the wage hike was the only means left for workers to survive the anticipated economic slowdown triggered by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on two targets in the United States, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Lawyer Miguel Varela, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), told businessmen here last week that the United States is facing a zero growth rate this month, and this would affect Philippine trade and exports next year.

The United States and Japan represent 70 percent of the country's dominant trading markets.

Masa admitted that the US attacks had stacked more odds against the bill's passage into law, although 18 congressmen have already committed to help marshal the bill through most of the hearings of the House committee on labor.

"We will continue to pursue it because we cannot even say that it is dead in the water. We cannot say this bill is dead. The proposed House measure is already being heard by the (House committee on labor), and we have raised all our arguments there," Masa told reporters in a press conference here Saturday.

She said Bayan Muna already objected to a new proposal from the committee to institutionalize a profit-sharing option in place of a wage hike.

"There are no clear instruments or mechanisms which can guarantee workers that a firm is disclosing all its assets and operations. Transparency had never been proven in private businesses and unless we can obtain a clear mechanism, there is no way a profit-sharing scheme can work. There are always ways for a company to divest themselves of these assets at the cost of a gains-sharing deal," Masa said in Filipino.

Donald Dee, president of the Employees Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), told delegates of the 10th North Philippines Area Business Conference on Friday that President Macapagal-Arroyo had "asserted her political will," when she confirmed a P25-wage hike order for Metro Manila.

Dee said the rate would be the benchmark for all other wage increases being processed for the provinces.

He said the wage increase was the only political option left to the government, until Malacañang can correct economic flaws that had encouraged food costs in the country to abnormally escalate.

Quoting Ecop statistics, Dee said the average Filipino wage earner now spends 54 percent of his salary on food.

The resulting agricultural trade imbalances precipitated the high food cost that had forced organized labor to seek wage increases almost every year since 1991 and which Ms Macapagal must now cope with, Dee said.

He said the government traced these flaws to the administration of former President Fidel Ramos, whose industrialization agenda failed to cushion the food and agriculture sectors from the effects of global free trade. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Addiction to 'rugby' rises among children in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Authorities here expressed alarm over the growing number of minors, as young as 7 years old, who are hooked on glue.

Supt. Romeo Taal, deputy for operations of the city police office, said from July to September, they have arrested 453 youths caught sniffing glue.

Taal said most of these minors were rounded up in Sasa, Agdao and Talomo Districts.

But while police keep on arresting children, they don't know how to deal with stores that sell glue to children.

The City Social Services and Development Office (CSSDO) said there is a city ordinance that prohibits the sale of the substance to children.

It even came out with a list of hardware and retail stores reportedly selling rugby to minors here.

Taal said policemen can't catch stores in the act of selling rugby to minors.

SPO1 Edward Ramirez of the city police's children and women's desk said police could not use apprehended minors for entrapment operations because this would violate the children's rights.

Ramirez said the *modus operandi* of vendors of glue is to repack the substance and sell it for P5 per pack.

Children caught buying rugby would easily reason out that it is to be used for shoe repair.

Pilgrim Gausa, executive director of Tambayan Center, said the number of arrests is already alarming especially because these involved children.

She said authorities hesitate to file charges against the children because this wouldn't stop glue addiction in the city.

Councilor Jimmy Dureza, author of a resolution seeking to regulate the sale of rugby here, said he wants some stores closed for selling glue to minors.

Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Alert up for rebel attack on projects

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Soldiers and policemen in Western Visayas have tightened security for government projects in Panay in the wake of last month's burning of pieces of equipment of a construction firm that refused to pay "revolutionary taxes" to communist rebels.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Atienza Jr., commanding officer of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division which covers Panay, Negros Occidental and Bohol, said he has ordered field commanders to secure government projects against rebel attacks.

The order followed the burning of around P7 million worth of equipment of construction firm FF Cruz & Co., Inc. in Antique province last Sept. 9 by New People's Army guerrillas.

FF Cruz is constructing a 44-kilometer concrete road from Culasi, Antique to Nabas, Aklan. The P646-million project of the Department of Public Works and Highways and Asian Development Bank started in March 2000 and was expected to be finished in September 2003.

The communist-led National Democratic Front, in a statement dated Sept. 25, claimed responsibility for the attack. The rebels burned a backhoe and dump truck at 11:45 p.m. inside the quarry site of the company at Purok 3, Barangay Nauhon, Sebaste town, 96 km north of the capital town of San Jose.

Concha Araneta, the NDF spokesperson on Panay Island, said FF Cruz was "punished" for ignoring the rebels' demand for "revolutionary taxes."

It was the first reported attack by rebels in Panay against private firms in recent years.

The rebel spokesperson also said that companies owned by big landowners, big entrepreneurs and multinational firms should pay "revolutionary taxes" to continue their operations in areas under supposed rebel control.

Atienza said the attacks were already expected because the rebels have no regular source of funds. He, however, said that government troops would secure the equipment and personnel of firms contracted in government projects.

"We will deploy troops to escort them during their work if necessary and if the company requests it," Atienza told the INQUIRER.

He said Army troops would also secure vital installations and facilities like the National Power Corp. "We do not want a repeat of this incident."

Police operations have also been increased to prevent rebel attacks, said Supt. Norlito Bautista, chief of the Community Relations Division of the PNP regional office in Western Visayas.

Bautista said the police force in the region was ordered to step-up intelligence operations and to increase patrols especially in areas with ongoing government projects.

He added the attack was an "isolated case" and did not indicate an increase in rebel strength in Panay.

Use of text in drug trade bared

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—After a tip-off from students, National Bureau of Investigation agents arrested on Wednesday a suspected drug pusher here who had been using cellular phones and text messaging in his illegal drug trade.

Lawyer Norman Taloza, chief of the NBI District office here, said Demie Domingo Jr., 26, was arrested by NBI undercover agents in a buy-bust operation in Barangay La Torre North here.

Five college students here disclosed to the NBI the mode of operation used by Domingo in his alleged drug trade which, they said, preyed on students here and in neighboring towns.

They said Domingo receive orders for shabu through text messages from prospective buyers.

"They called (the mode of operation) 'door-to-door delivery,' and they used this (phrase) as a password in the text (message) or even in calls," a male student said. "(Domingo) would text back by confirming the order and setting the time of the delivery."

Police seized a pack of shabu, an unlicensed gun, a cellular phone and an unregistered motorcycle from Domingo.

"The use of cellular phones has made it more and more difficult for authorities to track down these kinds of illegal activities," Taloza told the INQUIRER.

"What is alarming is that (the suspects) are also armed," he added.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Vice mayor, 3 others held for poll murder

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Four persons, including a vice mayor, were arrested on Saturday for their alleged involvement in the killing of mayoral candidate Jesus Sibya Jr. and the wounding of his driver, three days before the May 14 elections.

A team from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group served the arrest warrant against Vice Mayor Marilyn Silfavan, 45, in her home on San Augustin Street, San Joaquin, about 53 kilometers south of this city.

The 18-member CIDG unit also arrested Edgar Sta. Cruz; Roque Sanmillan, 46; and Oliver Segumalian, 40, in separate operations.

Of the four, only Silfavan was able to post bail. She was released hours later after paying P130,000.

The four were among the 16 accused in the murder of Sibya and the wounding of Norberto Salamat III. The case against them is now pending before Judge Danilo Galvez of the Iloilo Regional Trial Court Branch 24.

Two principal suspects, former Mayor Sebastian Serag and Balabago Barangay chief Lino Napao, are detained at the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center. Serag surrendered hours after the shooting on May 11.

Silfavan was named an accessory in both charges. She was then the running mate of then reelectionist town Mayor Serag.

Serag lost his reelection bid to Ma. Daisy Sibya, the widow of Jesus who took over her husband's candidacy, a day before the election.

The provincial prosecutor's office named Silfavan as an accessory after she allegedly received a long firearm covered by a camouflage jacket from Rodolfo "Tikboy" Talanquines, one of the principal suspects, after Sibya's shooting.

Silfavan denied the charges. "My conscience is clear. I don't have anything to do with the death of former Mayor Sibya," she said after her arrest.

Supt. Arturo Evangelista, CIDG director for Western Visayas, said the 10 other accused in the Sibya killing are at large.

He said he had requested other CIDG units in the country to help arrest the wanted men because he believed that the 10 had already left the town.

Mayor Sibya appealed to the 10 accused to surrender and face charges in court. "We should start the hearing so that we could all move on," Sibya told the INQUIRER.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 27°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 27°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/02/01

ROUNDUP

5 die in road crash

MATNOG, Sorsogon—Five people died and 15 others were injured when a bus fell from a bridge in Barangay Manjumlad here about 1 a.m. Sunday. Matnog police identified the fatalities as Garic Garcia, 25; Carlo Tingkingko, 26; Paz Rebadulla, 54; Fe Rebadulla, 56; and Ligaya Caparroso, all residents of Northern Samar. Police said a Philtranco bus bound for Rawis, Northern Samar, was racing with two other buses when it swerved to the left and fell into a deep shoulder, five meters approaching the Manjumlad Bridge. Five injured passengers were confined in the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital and the Matnog Hospital, police said. The driver, identified as Ramil Bonita, escaped after the crash.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 rebs slain

CALAPAN CITY—Three suspected members of the New People's Army were killed and several others were wounded in a gun battle between the rebels and government soldiers late Sunday in Sitio Sigao, Barangay Lisap, Bongabong town. Bongabong Mayor Alex Enriquez said he received reports about the rebel casualties from Lisap barangay officials. The Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command in Camp Guillermo Nakar in Lucena City, said an NPA rebel, Pepe "Ka Sante" Amonte, was captured during the 20-minute gunfight. Maj. Gerard Velez said two teams from the 6th Special Forces Company encountered more than 20 NPA rebels while on their way to Sitio Sigao. The soldiers also recovered an Armalite rifle, several rounds of assorted ammunition, medical kits and communist documents. *Joel Jabal and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Farmer meted death

CALAPAN CITY—A farmer in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro was meted three death sentences and a life term for raping his 12-year-old stepdaughter. Judge Tomas Leynes, executive judge of the regional trial court here, found Jesus Wilfredo Laga guilty of four counts of rape. Court records showed that Laga molested his stepdaughter every time her mother left their house in a remote village in Naujan. Laga also threatened to kill the victim and her mother.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop chief hailed

CALAPAN CITY—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan has commended newly installed provincial police chief Alejandro Gutierrez for his anti-jueteng drive, which has resulted in the arrest of more than 20 persons. Gutierrez was installed last week after his predecessor failed to curb jueteng. Marasigan issued an executive order in July directing all local officials and police officers to eradicate jueteng in the province.

Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Murder suspect falls

SAN PABLO CITY—Police have arrested the principal suspect in the murder of a teenage victim in a barangay here after an intensive manhunt. A police report identified the suspect as Rolando Alto, 22, single, native of Masbate, Masbate. Alto is the principal suspect in the murder of Leonardo Escondo, 16, married of Barangay San Diego here. Recovered from the suspect was a shotgun with ammunition allegedly used in the killing.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 accidents in Laguna

PILA, Laguna—An allegedly drunken driver of a 10-wheel soft drinks delivery trailer truck caused his vehicle to slide and turn right side down, smashing through a Meralco concrete post and into a house in Barangay San Antonio here on Thursday evening. The accident damaged some houses. At the South Luzon Expressway, eight southbound vehicles figured in three separate collisions a few meters from each other along the Sta. Rosa-Cabuyao portion of the expressway about 12:30 p.m. Friday. This caused heavy traffic along the southbound lane for several minutes.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Group expanding

DAVAO CITY—The Medical Mission Group (MMG) said it is considering the United States for the expansion of its member-only services. Dr. Edgar Ruben Robillo, MMG board chair, said the plan is aimed at addressing the needs of overseas workers and their families. He said under the plan, overseas workers would be unburdened of concerns, particularly when family members get sick. Robillo said they only have to become members of the MMG's cooperative to avail themselves and their family members of health services.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hiked rice produce

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Northern Mindanao's rice production increased by 40 percent for the second quarter of the year despite a decrease in production in some provinces due to pest infestation. The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics said production grew to 83,134 metric tons during the second quarter of this year up from 59,389 metric tons for the same period last year. The increase was attributed to changes in the farmers' harvesting pattern. Bukidnon was the top producer with 32.82 percent production increase.

Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

US faces new 'very serious threat'

(From page A1)

sions might be possible to ease the impasse over Bin Laden if the United States offered evidence linking him to the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The president has said we're not negotiating," White House chief of staff Andrew Card said on "Fox News Sunday."

"They've got to turn not only Osama bin Laden over but all the operatives of the al-Quida organization," Card added.

Blair

In an interview with British Broadcasting Corp., Blair also warned Afghanistan's Taliban rulers that they must give up Bin Laden or "become our enemy."

"If they are not prepared to give up Bin Laden, which they could do if they wanted to, then they become an obstacle that we either have to disable or remove to get to Bin Laden," he told BBC's "Breakfast with Frost" program.

Blair said he was convinced beyond doubt that Bin Laden masterminded the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"I have seen absolutely powerful and incontrovertible evidence of his link to the events of the 11th of September," he said.

"I think in the end the important thing is that we get him and stop him, and that is something that we'll pursue in whatever way we can," Blair told BBC when asked whether he wanted Bin Laden "dead or alive."

He said the first phase of the international fight against terrorism—to which he has given Britain's complete backing—will be to take out Bin Laden.

Blair said the second phase would be to "try to shut down this evil of terrorism."

Hard to find

In Islamabad, Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef told journalists that US forces would have a hard time finding Bin Laden.

"He's in a place which cannot be located by anyone," he told journalists.

It was the first time that the Taliban publicly admitted for the first time that they knew Bin Laden's location and that he was under their control.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, the Taliban said they didn't know where Bin Laden was but later said they could deliver messages to him.

In an interview with Taliban-run Kabul Radio, Mullah Omar repeatedly warned the United States to "think and think again" about attacking his country, which drove out Soviet invaders with US assistance in the 1979-1989 war.

"If you attack us, there will be no difference between you and the Russians," he said.

As Oman taunted America, the Taliban stepped up its crackdown of Afghan citizens suspected of sympathizing with the enemy.

In a statement distributed by the Afghan Islamic Press, Taliban officials said six men were arrested for distributing pamphlets supporting the United States and Afghanistan's exiled king—a crime punishable by death.

Top clerics from three provinces also issued on Sunday an edict saying any Afghan believed to sympathize with the United States or the former king should be heavily fined and have their house burned down.

In Kabul, the first World Food Program convoy since the start of the crisis arrived Monday. Eight trucks carrying 218 tons of wheat made it through to the city after a bone-jarring journey over rutted roads, WFP spokesperson Khalid Mansour said in neighboring Pakistan.

Fighting also continued in northern Afghanistan. Taliban fighters apparently retook a district that the opposition alliance reported capturing on Sunday.

Taliban officials reported that their fighters had regained control of the district of Qadis in northeastern Bagdis province. *AP*

America's face now wears a gas mask

CHICAGO—Around the United States, the changing face of civilian preparedness now wears a gas mask.

Claudine Jordan trembled and struggled to speak after the sales clerk at Chicago's Army Navy Surplus USA store told her that he would sell her only two gas masks, not the six she wanted for her family.

"You tell me who I should save in my family," Jordan demanded. "What child should I save?"

Americans are buying the masks along with water purifiers, antibiotics and survival manuals amid fears that have arisen since the hijackings Sept. 11 that terrorists may also have been planning chemical or biological attacks from crop-dusters and trucks packed with hazardous materials.

"People have realized that flying a plane into the side of the World Trade Center is not the worst thing that could happen," said Hugh Brock, owner of Brock's Army Surplus in Decatur, Georgia, which sold out of gas masks along with hundreds of other such stores around the country, in big cities and small towns.

After a daylong fruitless search for gas masks for his entire family, Atlanta businessman Dexter Berry wasn't giving up. "We're going to need one. It's just a matter of when," he said. "I want to carry one everywhere I go."

Demand on Web

The demand is obvious on websites that sell survivalist gear or literature. On eBay, new Israeli gas masks were going for more than $150 Thursday.

On Amazon.com, the No. 2-selling book was about germ warfare, advertised with the hook: "Deadly germs sprayed in shopping malls, bomb-lets spewing anthrax spores over battlefields, tiny vials of plague scattered in Times Square—these are the poor man's hydrogen bombs."

Some pharmacies have reported a run on the antibiotic Cipro in case of anthrax, a deadly bacterium that some fear could be used in a bioterrorism attack.

Dr. Hugh McLaughlin of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, has been writing patients prescriptions. "To me this is like a beesting kit," McLaughlin said. "You have one or two in your pocket and a little more at home."

Misuse of anti-biotics

The Ohio Health Department said prescribing anti-biotics for fear of biological terrorism attack "fosters the misuse of antibiotics and may create an unwarranted sense of panic. It is not advised."

Army Navy Surplus USA, on Chicago's North Side, has sold more than 6,000 masks—at about $40—and chemical filters since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, sales clerk Robert Finstein said. Normally, the place sells about one gas mask per month.

Some shoppers at the store, however, could not fathom buying a gas mask.

"I don't think I want to wrap my mind around the consideration of that," said Donna Davidson. "I'd prefer to live in denial a little longer." She also questioned whether a gas mask would save anyone.

The manager of a West Los Angeles surplus store, John Edell, said that masks are designed for different kinds of gases and are not useful unless the owner knows what kind of gas to guard against. And the masks won't protect in a biological warfare attack, he said.

But "we tell (customers) that and they freak out and buy it anyway," he said. *AP*

American warplanes flew over RP

(From page A1)

conference yesterday, or nine days after the first flights took place. "The President will authorize future overflights upon specific request by the US government."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the US request could not be publicly disclosed before its execution for security reasons.

The confidentiality covers the exact number and type of aircraft.

Asked if the US government had already made a request for overflights this month, Golez said: "We will not disclose this operational information beforehand for security reasons."

The US government's Sept. 20 request was made before the President convened the National Security Council to seek its consent for her administration's all-out support to the US-led International Counter-Terrorism Coalition.

The coalition has been massing troops and warplanes in areas near Afghanistan, sanctuary of Osama bin Laden who is the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

It was five days after the US government made its request that the President spelled out her 14-pillar anti-terrorist program.

Standard procedure

Tiglao said that in the future, the US government would have to make a formal request for each overflight of its aircraft.

"That's the standing procedure," he said when asked if the Philippines required prior written request from the US Embassy.

He also said there was no limit to the number of US aircraft that would be permitted entry into Philippine air space.

According to the procedure, the US Embassy relays the written request to the DFA, which then clears the request with the President.

But Tiglao said "the DFA would have authority over that given our policy stance that we support the international coalition and part of that support would be refueling stops (and) air space use (by US aircraft)."

After the President gives her express permission, the DFA instructs the Air Transportation Office to facilitate the overflights, Tiglao said.

Not in droves

Golez declined to give the actual number of aircraft that made the overflights last month.

"We're not talking of droves like bees, but as I said, we cannot disclose the numbers and description of the aircraft because of security considerations," he said.

But he described the C-5 Galaxies as big transport planes, and KC 135s as tankers that would enable planes to refuel in mid-air.

"And we expect that this (the overflights) is going to continue," he said.

Golez said it was his understanding that the US military had deployed "quite a significant number of forces" to the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf in anticipation of a strike against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, which had sheltered Bin Laden.

He said these forces included 28,000 troops, 300 warplanes excluding those already on Diego Garcia island, and about two dozen warships.

"It is the estimate of experts that they can start hostilities any time, but I do not feel that the hostilities will happen any time. I think it will still take a while," he said.

In an unannounced visit early last week to the former US naval base in Subic, Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Fleet, gave Golez "a general briefing" on the US military plan.

Fargo also inspected the facilities at Subic, Golez said, and was pleased by what he saw.

Golez said the overflight arrangements were mainly covered by the Philippines' compliance with the call to action by the UN Security Council.

But he said the process of allowing US planes to use Philippine air space "may be similar" to arrangements under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

Ople's resolution

Sen. Blas Ople will file tomorrow a proposed resolution authorizing the President to use "appropriate force" in supporting the US-led campaign against terrorism—and his colleagues in the chamber will not oppose it.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he would personally support the resolution.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said the minority would also likely do so.

"By history and tradition, the primary role and primacy of the Senate in foreign relations is recognized since the Senate is the treaty-ratifying body in Congress," Drilon said.

Thus, the possible sending of Filipino combat troops abroad is "in pursuit and implementation of a specific foreign policy, and therefore the consultation with Congress is called for and proper," he said. ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***

Garganera backs up Rosebud's testimony

(From page A1)

they had earlier confiscated, according to Remus Garganera, one of the witnesses of military intelligence against former NarcGroup officials.

Garganera, 38, on Sunday said three NarcGroup policemen remitted an average amount of P500,000 "every other day" as proceeds from the alleged trafficking.

He identified the police officers only by their surnames—Tuvera, Castro and Rosale—who, he said, were under Supt. Francisco Villaroman.

At today's Senate inquiry, Garganera is expected to corroborate allegations by former narcotics civilian agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong that ranking police officers associated with Sen. Panfilo Lacson Jr. used to engage in drug trafficking.

Garganera, now in the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), is also expected to release during the hearing an affidavit he executed supporting Ong's allegations, according to his legal counsel Jocelle Batapa.

The witness said he sought refuge at Isafp after receiving threats from a Bacolod City-based drug lord, who allegedly belonged to the group of Lacson and Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, former NarcGroup head.

Garganera said he had personal knowledge of the alleged recycling of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and alleged abduction of suspected Hong Kong triad members by narcotics agents led by Acop, Campos and Villaroman.

Warehouseman

The witness said he worked for Campos either as a "bagman" or a "warehouseman" for drug transactions from May 1998 to May 1999.

For about two months during that time, he was tasked to distribute shabu to police assets, who sold the recycled drugs in the streets, he claimed.

He said he would collect the proceeds afterward, and deliver them to Campos at a house in Parañaque.

Posing as local drug lords, undercover agents Campos and Ong bought shabu from triad members as part of the NarcGroup's anti-narcotics operations, Garganera said.

The transactions usually took place in hotels, he added.

"Ong and Campos would buy shabu to make the triad believe that they were really part of the illegal trade," Garganera said in Filipino. "They had to do this as frequently as possible to gain the trust and confidence of the triad."

But instead of just keeping the illegal drugs, Campos and his team would recycle them and sell them in the streets, said the witness.

Garganera said the shabu, bought at between P300,000 and P350,000 per kilo, was then sold to the three police officers at P500,000.

The witness claimed that the money he collected from the policemen was turned over to Campos.

WITNESS, Remos Garganera , is set to be presented today by military intelligence to corroborate Mary Ong's testimony on the alleged drug-trafficking activities of PNP officials. DENNIS SABANGAN

Recalling conversations he allegedly had with Campos, Garganera said the team recycled shabu to raise funds for the anti-drug operations.

He said Acop demanded the return of the budget for the case plans, including interest.

"I would usually hear Campos complain about how excessive the demands of Acop were," he said.

Custodian

Garganera said he stopped being Campos' bagman when the police officer asked him to keep watch over suspected triad members allegedly abducted by NarcGroup agents and kept in various safe houses.

"I was the custodian of the kidnap victims before they were taken away from the safe houses," Garganera said.

Mary Ong previously claimed in a Senate session that these suspected triad members were among those allegedly executed by police agents.

Garganera said he was part of the team that monitored the activities of suspected drug lord Calvin Wong, who was later allegedly snatched by NarcGroup agents.

Wong was abducted in November 1998 in Pasay City. Garganera said Campos had told him that Wong was supposed be brought to Cavite but the place was not safe.

"Campos told me to be at his residence at Better Living, Parañaque, where the group would bring Wong. The suspected drug lord arrived blindfolded and in handcuffs," he said.

Garganera said he watched over Wong in a Parañaque house for a few days.

On the evening of Nov. 7, Garganera allegedly received a call from Campos instructing him to hand over Wong to Senior Insp. Julius Caesar Mana, who was under Villaroman.

"They (agents) took him afterward and I didn't know what happened to him," the witness said.

Two weeks later, he and Campos saw a television news report that a man, whose body had been cut into pieces, was found in Cavite.

Garganera said Campos told him that the victim could be Wong.

Afterward, the witness said he was assigned to guard another suspected triad member, Chong Hiu Ming, who was allegedly abducted in December 1998.

Wiretapping

He said he and the surveillance team had monitored Chong's activities through wire tapping, using the equipment provided by Supt. Teofilo Andrada.

Since he could speak and understand Fookien, Garganera was assigned to interpret Chong's telephone conversations with local drug traffickers.

"I was trained by Ong to easily spot passwords or coded messages in these conversions," Garganera said.

He said they were able to establish Chong's network based on the telephone numbers found on hotel billings.

The owners of the numbers were traced through Campos' contacts at the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Ong and Campos posed as buyers of illegal drugs from Chong, who brought the supply from Xiamen, China, he said.

On Dec. 30, 1998, Garganera said Chong was abducted. The Chinese was brought to Ong's house at No. 27 Villa Carolina on Roxas Boulevard.

The demand was for Chong to bring in a large quantity of shabu in exchange for his freedom. Chong refused. He instead offered a large sum of money.

Garganera said he looked after Chong who was held for five months. At one time, Chong was allowed to contact his family to ask for the ransom. While on the phone, Chong was beaten by Campos.

Family

In March 1999, a family of alleged drug traffickers, were also brought to Villa Carolina.

Garganera identified them as Wong Kam Chong, Zeng Jia Xuan alias Agong, Hong Zhen Qiao alias Pinky, Zeng Kang Fang and James Ong. He said those abducted were beaten up.

In April 1998, Garganera had a fight with Ong because he did not allow Hong to use the toilet as somebody was using it.

Hong complained to Ong who got mad and confronted Garganera, resulting in a heated argument.

Garganera lost his temper and threw a scotch tape dispenser at her direction.

The commotion woke Campos up. Ong rushed to Campos and told him what had happened. Before she could explain, Campos slapped and beat her.

Ong became hysterical and threatened Campos that she would call the police if Garganera did not leave Villa Carolina. This forced Garganera to leave.

Garganera later learned from Villaroman's group that Chong and Wong Kam Chong had been killed.

Return to Negros

In May 1999, Garganera returned to Negros Occidental to look for a job. During his stay in Bacolod, Garganera was in constant contact with Campos.

When he returned to Manila in May 2000, Campos was accompanying former Rep. Ralph Recto in his provincial sorties in preparation for the senatorial race in 2001.

Garganera said he again decided to return to Negros Occidental. He told Campos it was easier to find a job in his home province because Supt. Geary Barias was named provincial director. Barias was Campos' former superior officer in the NarcGroup.

Early this year, Garganera said he worked in the office of then Sagay Mayor Joseph Marañon, now governor of Negros Occidental.

He said he worked for the Sagay municipal government until he was implicated by Ong at the Senate hearings. Out of fear, Garganera said he immediately went into hiding.

Later, he said he learned that a radio reporter started implicating Barias. To prevent the media from further implicating other persons, Garganera said he decided to surrender.

Batapa, Garganera's lawyer said her client had already applied to be placed under the Witness Protection Program of the Department of Justice.

"Garganera is a qualified witness since he is the least guilty," Batapa said.

Basilan no place . . .

(From page A1)

nationals allegedly arrived in Lanao del Sur last week.

"*Lahat ng mga mukhang Arabo na makikita dito sa Basilan ipapahuli ko, at binigyan ko na ng* order *ang* police *na hulihin sila kapag makitang palakad-lakad dito* (All the Arab-looking people who will be seen in Basilan will be arrested, and I have ordered the police to arrest them if they are seen walking around)," Akbar told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The governor said the presence of foreigners here makes him "edgy."

"We do not know what they are planning to do here," he said.

He said that even if Arab nationals have complete travel documents, they still should not be seen in Basilan.

"It's either they give us problems or they start a problem. They should be out of here," Akbar said.

Akbar said he has also informed the military about his directive. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

THE EDGY Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar is into racial profiling in his province. DENNIS SABANGAN

Cory launches . . .

(From page A1)

support for the US-led campaign against those responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Aquino said that while the government was busy firming up its strategy on the anti-terrorism campaign, she would visit schools nationwide to lead the youth in prayer.

She said a prayer pilgrimage could work miracles for the country and the rest of the world.

Aquino started the first leg of the pilgrimage at the De La Salle High School in Greenhills, San Juan.

Today she will travel to private schools in her home province of Tarlac, she said, adding that she would also visit those parishes that would want to pray with her.

Starting in October last year, the former President visited schools and parishes in Metro Manila to pray for the "discernment" of government officials, especially those implicated in "Juetengate."

She embarked on her prayer visits after she publicly urged Estrada to consider making the "supreme self-sacrifice" of resigning his post in the face of the "ultimate outrage" of the scandal involving money that he allegedly received from jueteng operations and as kickback of tobacco excise taxes.

Medical mission only

Aquino said yesterday that while she did not wish to meddle in government policy, she was not keen on the prospect of sending Filipino combat troops to take part in the US-led war on terrorism.

She recalled that during her term, the US government sought from its allies medical help as a form of support for its offensives against Iraq in 1991.

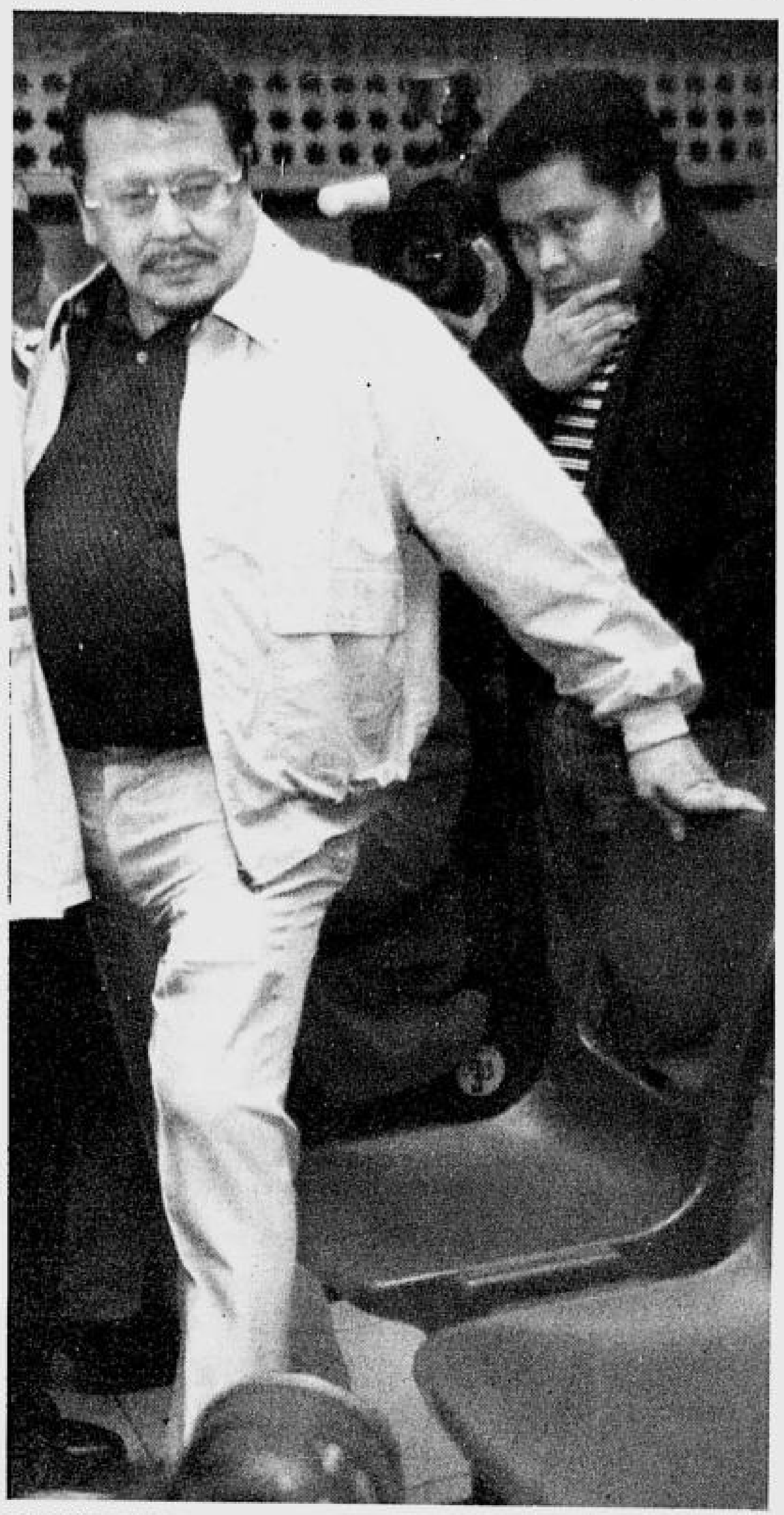
"I think we have to wait until we are asked for what it is that they would like from us, but I remember that during my presidency, during the Gulf War, we sent a medical mission," she said.

Aquino said Congress should study the situation carefully because it would be the one to decide whether Filipino soldiers should be deployed to reinforce US troops.

But she stressed that she would support the President's anti-terrorism policies, which include the opening of Philippine air space and facilities to the US-led International Counter Terrorism Coalition.

Erap: No shoes, no lawyers

CONFERRING at the Sandiganbayan holding room are former President Estrada and Edward Serapio with their respective lawyers including former Sen.Ernesto Maceda. VAL HANDUMON



DEFENDANTS Estrada and son, Jinggoy, in court. VAL HANDUMON

(From page A1)

"They have humiliated me from the start."

He told the court he had only showed up to avoid "any commotion," and complained that he did not feel he could get a fair trial because of the alleged bias against him of Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division.

"I beg your permission to leave this courtroom," Estrada said in exasperation.

"There is no more standard of justice here. What are four or five days of postponement so my lawyers would be able to defend me?" he asked the court.

But Badoy, who threatened to have Estrada's defense team held in contempt of court, silenced all his protests and rejected his requests.

What happened next was a curious twist in the plunder case hearings. The court appointed two lawyers of Serapio to defend the detained leader and his son.

The surprised lawyers, Sabino Acut and Martin Pison, begged the court to recall its order.

"Why me?" Acut repeatedly protested, as both lawyers argued vehemently against the decision. They claimed they could face conflicts of interest and said they would not comply with the order.

Badoy told them they would suffer unspecified consequences if they refused, repeatedly banging his gavel to silence their protests.

Stunned

In the end, the justice called on three lawyers from the Public Assistance Office to represent Estrada in the cross-examination of the first prosecution witness, Willy Ng Ocier.

The three government lawyers, who had been waiting in the first row reserved for the defense, took their places as "temporary" defense counsels beside Acut and Pison.

Estrada, appearing stunned, refused to be represented by any of them.

"This is the first time I saw them. How can I get a fair trial in this court? How do you expect them to study my case?" a disbelieving Estrada asked Badoy.

The justice told him that he should have enlisted the services of other lawyers when he learned that his defense team would not attend yesterday's hearing.

Estrada answered: "My defense counsels studied my case for several months. How can you expect me to get a counsel who will study the matter for only three days?

"Now, you're appointing these people whom I have never seen in my whole life! One can see the prejudice being done to me."

Earlier, he objected: "This involves my life, liberty and honor. I have the right to get counsel of my choice. It is very obvious there is a double standard of justice here."

Wrong counsel

Estrada, in his trademark drawl, told Badoy: "I believe my presence (here) is not needed."

'What is (your) purpose (for requiring me to be) present here?" he asked, as he cited his repeated waivers of appearance and identification.

Badoy waved off the question: "Never mind, never mind. I would have granted your waiver but because of the actions of your counsels..."

"Why should I be punished for that?" Estrada answered. "That's the action of my lawyers, not me!"

In another comical moment, Badoy, before calling for the suspension of the hearing at 3:10 p.m., appointed Serapio as counsel de oficio for Estrada.

A speechless Serapio stared questioningly at the justice.

Badoy corrected himself and said that Acut would be appointed as counsel de oficio for Estrada.

Lunch

Estrada told reporters during a court recess that he never really intended to go to court, but was only "convinced" by former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, his top legal adviser, to go with the police "just so that there would not be any trouble."

"That's why I'm not properly dressed," he said.

One of his sons, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, said his father didn't have any time to change when police escorts led by Chief Supt. Thompson Lantion arrived at the military hospital where the ex-President is detained.

The elder Estrada was having lunch then, Ejercito said, adding: "He had no choice but to go."

But the disgraced leader was far from hostile when the police officers came for him, Lantion said.

"He was actually more in a joking mood. He never gave any indication that he was resisting," Lantion said at the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada, Jinggoy, JV Ejercito, Narvasa and former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda arrived via land convoy at the court around 2 p.m., an hour late for the proceedings.

Tomorrow and Oct. 17

In the end, Estrada was directed by the court to appear again tomorrow for arraignment in the illegal use of alias case, and on Oct. 17 for the continuation of the direct examination of prosecution witness Ocier.

The trial opened less than an hour after the Supreme Court refused to order a delay while it considers the defense's challenge to the plunder law on grounds that it allegedly is too vague.

At the start of the hearing, Badoy took great pains in explaining why the court wanted the trial to proceed and why the reasons cited by Estrada's lawyers to defer the trial were not satisfactory.

He even recited a litany of the virtues of St. Therese whom, he said, should be the "saint of the millennium." He said he set the start of trial in the plunder case yesterday, Oct. 1, which is the feast of St. Therese and because it was within the period allowed by law after the 15-day period after the issuance of the pre-trial order.

Badoy opened the hearing with a prayer, asking for divine guidance.

Plunderwatch

About 1,500 police secured the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City. Separate areas were set up outside for pro- and anti-Estrada protesters, but few showed up, evidence of how the once hot issue has cooled over the months.

After the hearing, court observers from the watchdog group Plunderwatch expressed satisfaction that the Sandiganbayan pushed through with the trial despite the ex-President and his lawyers' "obvious conspiracy" to delay the case.

"It's unbelievable that he has as many as nine lawyers and not one of them can attend. They should be cited for contempt if they cannot produce a good reason for this," said Plunderwatch convenor Maan Hontiveros.

She said by delaying the trial, Estrada lawyers were in fact "working against the interest of their client."

"They think that by not appearing, they could delay the trial? Estrada even complained that the government is spending P.5 million (for security) each time he is brought to court. But they are the ones wasting (public) money because of the delays they are causing," Hontiveros said.

Underdog card

Rafael Mariano, Bayan chair and another Plunderwatch convenor, said the ex-President was again played the underdog card—"*nagpapaawa*."

But "the defense panel failed to stop this (opening hearing) and there's no stopping this from now on," Mariano said, claiming the event as a "victory for the people."

The hearing was generally peaceful even as around 150 to 200 pro-Estrada supporters massed outside, decrying the "injustice" being committed against their idol.

They were kept some 300 meters away from the Sandiganbayan building anti-riot police.

Earlier in the day, though, one of them, a bag-toting woman, caused a stir among in-house security personnel.

They thought she might be hiding a bomb when she entered the court building and spent about 30 minutes inside the restroom. It turned out she was just changing her clothes before joining her fellow demonstrators.

Estrada is accused of amassing P4 billion in payoffs from "jueteng" operators and kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes and questionable government investments during 31 months in office.

The ousted President says the charges were fabricated and that he has been suffering from depression as a result. ***With reports from Gerald Lacuarta, Christine Avendaño; AP, AFP***

Yorac chides Roco . . .

(From page A1)

justice and human rights, stemmed from the decision of the Department of Education (DepEd) to allow schoolchildren in Ilocos Norte to celebrate Marcos' death anniversary last week.

"The government cannot try to prevent plunderers and dictators from ever rising again on one hand while some of its own public school teachers teach the 'virtues' of plunder and dictatorship on the other," Yorac said in a letter to Roco dated Sept. 28.

An INQUIRER report said that the education department was "actively" involved with the Marcos family in the dictator's death anniversary last Friday.

Ligaya Miguel, Ilocos Norte's superintendent, was quoted as saying that the schoolchildren should "regard the event as an educational experience from which they could learn the ideas and principles that Marcos stood for."

As part of the celebration, public school students were asked to rummage for old pictures of the late dictator and collect stories from their grandparents on the "greatness" of Marcos, who was ousted in a popular revolt and was sent into exile in Hawaii in 1986.

The schoolchildren compiled the pictures and presented them as "gifts" to the Marcos family, which sponsored a choral competition, elocution and story-telling activities for the elementary students in the Marcoses' ancestral home in Batac.

"Unless the education department has approved an elementary school curriculum that makes Ferdinand Marcos a national hero and extols the corruption, torture and undemocratic rule of his regime as virtues, what justification could there be for any kind of involvement by public school authorities in the death anniversary rites of the dictator?" Yorac said.

She urged Roco to take "decisive action" on the matter before schoolchildren forget the plunder and human rights violation perpetrated by the Marcos dictatorship.

The Constitution mandates all educational institutions to inculcate patriotism, love for humanitys and respect for human rights among Filipino students.

A MESSAGE TO THE FLYING PUBLIC

To Our Valued Passengers,

We regret to inform you that, as a result of the recent tragedy that befell the United States, the premiums for third party liability insurance of airlines worldwide have skyrocketed. This covers incidents brought about by war or acts of terrorism.

Because of our concern for both our customers and the communities we serve, the airline has taken the coverage and is constrained to implement an additional three hundred peso (₱ 300) surcharge per passenger, for every flight taken domestically. For your guidance, please take note of the following:

- The additional three hundred pesos is not a fare increase but a surcharge for the increased insurance premiums.
- This surcharge will be paid upon purchase of tickets beginning October 1, 2001, until further notice.
- For tickets purchased October 1 onwards which do not include this surcharge, the amount will be collected at the airport.
- This surcharge applies to all passengers traveling on any fare including full, discounted or complimentary.

The September 11 tragedy has left several adverse effects on all industries around the world, the airline sector being only one of them. We are all praying for the recovery, be it economically or emotionally, of all those stricken by these effects.

In spite of all this, Cebu Pacific keeps its fervent commitment to offer the flying public a safe, efficient and on-time mode of air transportation, with service that's straight from the heart.

We thank you for your understanding.

CEBU PACIFIC

PROTEST RALLY QUELLED

Tuason vows to address athletes' woes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason yesterday met with representatives of the discontented Association of Coaches and Athletes of the Philippines and promised to meet all their demands, particularly the improvement of their living conditions.

The dialogue, held at Century Park Sheraton, was the reason the group decided not to push through with the protest rally calling for Tuason's ouster today, according to Acap president and national coach Jaime Sebastian.

Sebastian said the protest rally was planned not only by his group, which according to him has a membership of more than 300 active athletes and coaches, but also by other sectors of society with genuine concern for Philippine sports.

"We are happy that he (Tuason) came to see us, but we have yet to see if he could fulfill his promise," Sebastian told the INQUIRER. "We want to see something before November ends because we only want the basic necessities for the athletes and coaches."

Among their demands, according to Sebastian, are quick repairs of their shabby athletes' quarters inside Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, increase in salaries and training allowance, preferential treatment to local coaches over foreigners and elimination of red tape in the PSC.

For his part, Tuason said his door is open to all athletes and coaches and that they need not resort to protest actions in order to convey their sentiment to the PSC.

Sebastian said their foremost complaint is the condition of all the quarters in the RMSC where 200 athletes and coaches reside.

"It floods during rainy days because rainwater drips from the ceiling. But what's ironic is that there is no water supply in those towers," said Sebastian, who won 24 gold medals in the Southeast Asian Games during his long and fruitful career as a bodybuilder.

Sebastian also lobbied for the salary of class C athletes to be raised from P3,500 to P5,000 a month in order to cope with today's living standards. "What we want is for them to channel funds for athletes instead of other things," added Sebastian.

Acap is one of two existing groups of national athletes and association and is the direct successor of the Athletes' Union formed by Eric Buhain, Akiko Thomson and Sebastian during the early '90s.

Another group is called Coaches and Athletes Association of the Philippines, Inc.

First Mindanao friendship meet slated in Lanao

MINDANAOANS now have an athletics competition they can identify with.

The Philippine Sports Commission and the Province of Lanao del Norte launched the First Mindanao Friendship Games last night at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila.

Designed to provide more opportunities for Mindanaoans to indulge in physical fitness and sports activities, the Games is part of President Arroyo's sports development program.

"The Games is also envisioned to serve as the pinnacle of a unified Mindanao sports promotion and development program," said PSC Chair Carlos Tuason.

"We hope to develop and enrich the lives of our brothers and sisters in Mindanao through sports and use it as a tool to promote peace, unity and harmony," added PSC Commissioner William Ramirez, the overall project director, who is a native of Davao City.

The Friendship Games, scheduled from Nov. 11-15, is designed to urge Mindanao sports leaders to spearhead and organize activities that can serve as a vehicle for identifying, recruiting and training of grassroots talents for international competition.

"The Games will showcase the potentials and talents of Mindanaoans athletes and re-establish a culture of sports excellence in the region," said Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda G. Dimaporo.

Site of the competition is the impressive Mindanao Civic Center—a 71-hectare integrated trade and sports complex in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

This magnificent complex was also the venue of the recent 22nd Central Mindanao Regional Athletic Association sportsfest.

Ramirez said the Games is an Olympic-style, multi-sports, open event competition and envisions the meet to become the centerpiece of the government's physical fitness and sports development program for Mindanao.

Delasin takes ₱.4M; Pak rules Aflac golf

FIL-AMERICAN Dorothy Joy Delasin's post-season graces started to fall as she made herself richer by $8,953 (about P450,000) despite a struggling windup in the AFLAC Champions at the Magnolia Grove's Crossings course in Mobile, Alabama.

Delasin's final-round 73 gave her a two-over total of 274, a 72-hole total that would not give her that much money in a regular leg of the LPGA. There are only 40 players in the cast, however, made up mostly of the season's leg winners and invited players.

Se Ri Pak completed her mastery of the limited field with a 71-272, winning the title by five strokes over Lorie Kane of Canada (69-277). Pak pocketed $122,000 and tightened up the races for the LPGA's player of the year, Vare Trophy and money titles with Annika Sorenstam, who skipped the event.

Delasin, who had successfully defended her Giant Eagle LPGA Classic title in Ohio, again joins Pak and Sorenstam in this week's Samsung World Championship in Vallejo, California where a huge $180,000 pot is at stake.

In contention to make it to the Solheim Cup team, Delasin is fast approaching the $500,000 mark with earnings of $453,152. *Jong Acano*

Leonard wins

SAN ANTONIO — Justin Leonard shot a 2-under-par 69 on Sunday at the Texas Open to beat J.J. Henry and Matt Kuchar by two strokes and defend his title at the LaCantera Golf Club course in the rocky hills north of San Antonio. *AP*

Jenz cops Tito Boy title

JENZ Tecson shot a one under par 72 Sunday to capture overall honors in the third Tito Boy's Trophy, the annual tournament in honor of Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada.

Tecson was one of 44 federation members who competed in the event Cantada hosts every year to celebrate his birthday and provide additional activity for the junior players.

This year's sponsors were Milo, the Olympic energy drink, Outback Steakhouse and Pacsport.

"Actually, that 72 is even par at the Wack Wack Golf and Country club's East Course," said tournament director Gerard Cantada. "But I gave different pars in five divisions to give everyone a chance to win. "For players in Class A, the par was 73 while those in Classes B and C have pars of 78 and 82, respectively. Then I made par 91 for Class D and 96 for the girls division."

Tecson played in Class A. His win enabled him to have his name engraved in the permanent Tito Boy's Trophy and earned a trip to Singapore for the Singapore island Country Club Junior open in December.

Q'roni Baterna, who competed as a Class C bet, shot an 84 to capture second place. Class C's Jillian Datan made a 98 to finish third, followed by Kevin Lachica of Class A 77 and Class C Gabby Villareal 86.

SUPER MARATHONER
Olympic champion Naoko Takahasi of Japan jubilates as she became the first woman to run a marathon under 2 hours and 20 minutes and win Sunday's Berlin race. She posted a world best time of 2:19.45. AP

GameworX dartsfest October 13

THE THIRD leg of GameworX, Marx Darts Series 2001, will be held on Oct.13, Saturday, at the 4th level of Anchor A Festival Supermall Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The tournament offers a minimum guaranteed prize of P10,000 and trophies to the winners in a classified double (draw) killers double knockout competition with an entry fee of P100 per player.

"This is the third leg of our MarX Darts Series for the year 2001 and we're expecting a bigger number of participants. We still have a lot of sports activities scheduled for October," GameworX Marketing Manager Christian Datol said.

Part of GameworX program for the coming month is to invite national sports associations to hold their respective tournaments at GameworX.

"GameworX continues to give its patrons weekly fun and surprises. GameworX is proving that we're not just a part of the Festival Supermall, but also a part of growing sports communities. I'm inviting every National Sports Association or even the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission to visit us here," said GameworX president Jesus Avecilla. "We have a big place here for every sports like boxing, taekwondo, karatedo, judo, kick boxing, wushu, penkat-silat and even roller blades, hockey tournament."

Registration for the MarX Darts Series will start from 5 p.m. on the same day while the tournament proper will start at 7 p.m.

TPG, Davao forge MBA deal

THE PROFESSIONAL Group and the Davao Eagles formalized their partnership in the MBA with the signing of a memorandum of agreement yesterday.

Signatories to the MOA forged at the Professional Tower in Mandaluyong City were TPG president and chief executive officer Francisco Colayco, Anthony del Rosario, representing the Davao Eagles team owners, and MBA Commissioner Butch Antonio.

Santi Araneta, chair and president of the Multi-Regional Board Inc., and Ramon Tuason, MBA director for marketing and business development, witnessed the proceeding.

Also present were TPG's Ruben Victorino, VP for customer advocacy group; Donally Briñgas, SVP for business development and Yolanda Miranda, EVP for finance,

Included in the MOA are details of the TPG, a pre-need company, buy-in and the extent of cooperation between the two parties.

Del Rosario said the people of Davao welcome the entry of TPG because of its untarnished reputation in business, especially in Davao where it has a wide sales base.

For its part, TPG intends to put up a building in Davao as part of its commitment to further spur economic growth in the area.

Meanwhile, a total of P22,000 in fines were imposed by the MBA commissioner's office upon erring players in last week's games. Penalized P2,000 each for various offenses were Andok's San Juan's Rafi Reavis, Vilmer Banares, Gilbert Rodriguez and Omanzie Rodriguez; FedEx Laguna's Richie Melencio, Chris Nicdao, Biboy Simon and Chris Clay; TPG Davao's Richard Caliao and Bong Marata; and LBC Batangas' Romel Adducul.

In another development, FedEx Laguna's Chris Clay was named Hardcourt Player of the Week for Sept. 26-30 after leading the Lakers to victories over the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 115-95, and the TPG Davao Eagles, 142-107.

Ana Freezer, Sureshot stay alive

GAMES TODAY
1 p.m.—Blu vs Whiz
3 p.m.—Wang's vs Pampanga
5 p.m.—Grandtex vs Spring

ANA Freezers and Sureshot Sports Management turned back separate rivals yesterday to stay alive for the semifinals of the 1st PBL Open Invitational at the Makati Coliseum.

Ana Freezers leaned on the heroics of Roland Pascual who provided the great escape to ward off Tranfex Brokerage, 83-81, while Sureshot Sports Management pulled a lopsided 80-68 triumph over Silka.

Pascual, who also hauled 13 rebounds, drilled in 9 of his 21 points in a 10-5 run to oust Tranfex.

The Freezer Kings will face the winner of the Wang's Ball Club and Pampanga Selection today to get into the semifinals.

Hakkinen clinches US Grand Prix

INDIANAPOLIS — The obstacles were in place to stop Mika Hakkinen - bad luck and the Ferrari teammates. But the Finn, a two-time Formula One champion, wasn't about to give in.

Hakkinen took advantage of two pit stops by Brazilian Rubens Barrichello, then pulled away from the field in the closing laps for an 11-second victory over Michael Schumacher of Germany in the United States Grand Prix on Sunday.

"That was definitely one of the highlights of this chase," said Hakkinen, who has announced he won't race next season. "Definitely winning the British Grand Prix was something I always wanted in my book, and Indianapolis, I wanted this, too." Winning at Indianapolis, though, meant overcoming more than his share of problems.

There was Schumacher, the four-time world champion, who had knocked Hakkinen off the pole in the closing minutes of qualifying Saturday and Barrichello, his strongest challenger Sunday.

As if the two Ferrari drivers didn't cause enough trouble for McLaren's top driver, Hakkinen also had to contend with problems he created.

HAKKINEN: Grand farewell. AP

Ripken bids adieu

NEW YORK — About 3 ½ hours before the final road game of his career, Cal Ripken Jr. sat in the visitor's clubhouse at Yankee Stadium on Sunday, watching a movie on a big-screen TV. In shorts and a T-shirt, empty plastic plate and cup in hand after breakfast, Ripken took in "61*" —about Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle and the pursuit of 61 homers 40 years ago.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
x-New York	91	62	.595	
Boston	77	77	.500	14 1/2
Toronto	75	80	.484	17
Baltimore	62	92	.403	29 1/2
Tampa Bay	57	98	.368	35
Central				
x-Cleveland	89	66	.574	
Chicago	82	74	.526	7 1/2
Minnesota	81	75	.519	8 1/2
Detroit	64	92	.410	25 1/2
Kansas City	61	95	.391	28 1/2
West				
x-Seattle	111	45	.711	
y-Oakland	96	60	.615	15
Anaheim	75	81	.481	36
Texas	72	84	.461	39

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card spot

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Atlanta	84	72	.539	
Philadelphia	82	74	.526	2
New York	80	76	.513	4
Florida	73	83	.468	11
Montreal	65	91	.417	19
Central				
Houston	91	65	.583	
St. Louis	90	66	.577	1
Chicago	85	71	.545	6
Cincinnati	65	91	.417	26
Milwaukee	65	91	.417	26
Pittsburgh	58	98	.372	33
West				
Arizona	88	68	.564	
San Francisco	86	70	.551	2
Los Angeles	82	74	.526	6
San Diego	77	79	.494	11
Colorado	71	85	.455	17

COMPLETE RESULTS

American League

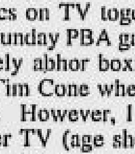
Boston 8, Detroit 5, Baltimore 1. N.Y. Yankees 1, 15 innings, 1st; Cleveland 9, Minnesota 1; Toronto 0, Tampa Bay 5, 12 innings; Chicago White Sox 5, Kansas City 2; Texas 8, Anaheim 6; Seattle 6, Oakland 3.

National League

N.Y. Mets 9, Atlanta 6, Cincinnati 5, Montreal 4, St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 3; Chicago Cubs 7, Houston 6; Colorado 10, Milwaukee 0; San Diego 5, San Francisco 4, Florida 8, Philadelphia 3; Los Angeles 2, Arizona 1 *AP*

A word from Vintar; kudos to Chavit, Yasuo & Gina

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THIS one has been in the pigeonhole for ages, I guess. The reader loves Tim Cone but says "I absolutely abhor boxing." Read on:

"Dear Al:

"I write not because I am a *kababayan* but because of my belief that your column is not only for sports buffs but for all lovers of life like me. Yours is a column that transcends sports, if your readers know what I mean.

"Anyway, in my youth, ball games were primarily for the boys while we, girls, were just onlookers, if not plain cheerers. We could not even ride the bicycle, although we were allowed to do a lot of swimming since our hometown is known for its river dam. In fact, in college, that was the only straight grade I got, making me a sports enthusiast ever since. Were it not for the cellulites, I would still be active in sports today. Or the other way around—had I been more active in sports, I would not have developed the cellulites.

"Anyway, the hubby and I watched the Sydney Olympics on TV together and never miss the Sunday PBA games (although I absolutely abhor boxing). But oh, I just love Tim Cone when he stands for his boys. However, I still prefer the radio over TV (age shows, obvious ba?) and to read about the games the following day in your newspaper.

"I like your salvos on jazz, the Bonoan bangus, the bagoong, traffic, the never-ending irritations of badly made road constructions, family, anything.

"Keep it up.
"Very truly yours,
(SGD.) PUREZA RAMIRO
PACIS
Vintar, Ilocos Norte"

Thank you, *po*, *Nanang*. I guess you heard me do the PBA games from the '80s to the early '90s in tandem with great broadcasters like Sev Sarmenta, Ed Piczon, Jimmy Javier, Bobby Ante, Randy Dimalibot, Randy Sakdalan, Bob Novales and Pol Alejandrino, among others? Yes, I share your view. Radio power hasn't diminished one bit. But, *Nanang Apo*, I hope you will reconsider your view about boxing. We might yet win our first gold medal in women boxing, who knows?

Cellulites, you say?

Exercise some more, and they will disappear. Or maybe you have stopped swimming, *Nana*?

* * *

Here's a glass to Chavit Singson, the gutsy former governor of Ilocos Sur, for receiving a plaque for bravery by the prestigious Philippine Sportsmen Society headed by Ray Cordova. I shook hands with Chavit during Gerry Peñalosa's ill-fated attempt to recapture the World Boxing Council superflyweight crown on Sept. 24. After the fight, he was in our group that had a late sashimi/sushi dinner at the fabled Asakusa district hosted by Yasuo and Gina Matsuoka, the lovely couple whose middle name is "Generosity." Yasuo and Gina are in town and to them, welcome. *Daijobu*?

And to you Ray, yes I will enjoy shortly the premium red wine staked in the Hopkins-Trinidad fight.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

POOL: World Pool Masters 2001 at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN
World Pool Trick Shot Masters 2001 at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Yearbook 2000—San Francisco 49ers Yearbook at 8 a.m., 2000 New York Jets Yearbook at 8:30 a.m. on ESPN
NFL—San Francisco 49ers vs New York Jets at 9 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Texas Open, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
SOCCER: Asian World Cup Qualifying Matches - Bahrain vs Iraq, Group A at 8 a.m., Iran vs Saudi Arabia, Group A at 10 a.m. on Star Sports
English Premier Football League at 12 noon (r), Highlights at 6 p.m. on Star Sports and 7 p.m. on ESPN
MLS 2001 Playoff Game at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Spanish Football League at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

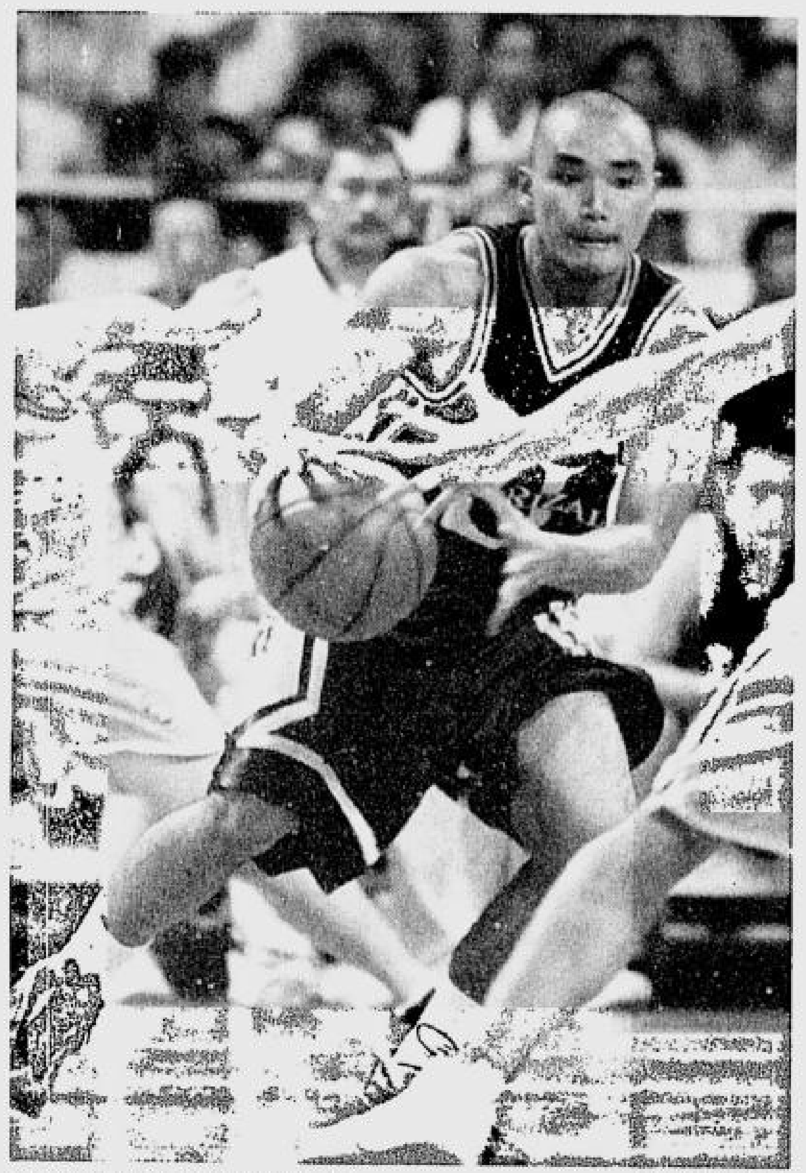
Aussies dominate Siargao surfing

SIARGAO, Surigao Del Norte—The sleepy town of General Luna in this island reaffirmed its place in the international sporting map when it played host once again to the 6th Siargao International Surfing Cup recently. Topping the competition was Australian Drew Courtney. He was followed by compatriots Steve Clements and Kurt Nyholm. Landing in fourth place was local bet Fernando Alipayo. The Siargao native was also adjudged best Filipino surfer.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Bombers, Stags clash for NCAA title today



EPONDULAN: Top Bomber. ROMY HOMILLADA

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1 p.m.— Letran vs San Beda (jrs)
3: 30 p.m.— JRU vs San Sebastian (srs)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College has the height, Jose Rizal University the speed.

Whichever team could impose its might over the other will run away with the 77th NCAA men's basketball crown today.

Showtime begins at 3:30 p.m. after the Letran Squires and the San Beda Red Cubs dispute the juniors diadem also in a winner-take-all Finals affair at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The odds are just about even as the Heavy Bombers and the Stags split their best-of-three title series.

Exploiting their height advantage to the hilt, the Stags nosed out the Bombers in Game 1, 77-74, behind the heroics of pivotman Jam Alfad and the 6-foot-7 Clark Moore.

Game 2 was payback time for the Heavy Bombers as the Mandaluyong-based hoopsters blinded the Stags with their lightning-quick transition plays to win by a mile, 95-81. MVP Ernani Epondulan shone for Bombers by firing 26 points in that game.

"Forget about the statistics, the past two encounters. It all boils down to this game," said JRU coach Boy De Vera in Tagalog. "And whoever performs well today will win the championship."

The Heavy Bombers are seeking their first crown in almost three decades since winning the title in 1972.

The Stags, owner of five straight titles in the '90s (1993-1997), are perennial title-contenders and another crown adds another a glitter to their countless championship feats.

"Defense still plays a very crucial role in this series. We were unable to stop their transition plays in Game 2. We just have to make sure that it won't happen again in Game 3," said SSC coach Turing Valenzona.

ROUGHPLAYS

La Salle slotman gets 1-game ban

By Dennis Eroa

IN a surprising move, the UAAP technical committee yesterday slapped a one-game suspension to La Salle rookie slotman Carlo Sharma for alleged rough plays in Game One of the UAAP men's basketball finals on Sept. 27 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The move means four-peat seeking La Salle will miss the services of the 6-foot-6 Sharma when the Green Archers try to wrap up the best-of-three title series in Thursday's Game Two against the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

Showing championship poise, the Green Archers outlasted the Blue Eagles, 74-68, to take the first game of what is being dubbed as Dream Showdown. This was the third straight time this season that La Salle had beaten Ateneo.

Sharma, whose leech-like, physical defense, made life harder for Enrico Villanueva in Game One, wasn't thrown out of the game after allegedly committing a punching foul on Rich Alvarez. The referees gave him a warning.

Also escaping the referees' whistles was Villanueva, who made a "second motion" on LA Salle's Manny Ramos during an undergoal tussle.

"I'm not surprised at all," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren on the decision. "What I cannot fathom is why are some members of the board allowing themselves to be dictated upon and sacrificing fair play in the process."

Pumaren said he will come out with a statement on Thursday when asked if he feels there is a grand conspiracy by the board to pin down La Salle.

Earlier, the board headed by Anton Montinola looked into the academic records of rookie sensation Mark Cardona despite the fact that there was no official protest and La Salle has already submitted pertinent school records to the screening committee.

Unable to swallow defeat, Ateneo coach Joe Lipa, who promised to bid coaching goodbye after this tournament, recited a litany of officiating boo-boos, while also asking for Sharma's head.

In an earlier interview, Chot Reyes, head of ABA-Phils, said the referees called it fair and square in Game One. An ABA-Phils official also told the INQUIRER that the decision to suspend Sharma was a pure decision coming from the UAAP technical committee composed of National University's Sonny Paguia, University of the Philippines' Francisco Diaz and Adamson's Ric Matibag.

A fourth member was Brenn Perez of University of the East but his attendance during yesterday's emergency meeting could not be confirmed.

La Salle was represented by Olympian Ramoncito Campos. Matibag had also come under fire for the Cardona brouhaha, since he headed the screening committee.

Pumaren said his charges will go all-out to sweep the series.

A welcome news for La Salle is the return of BJ Manalo, who will boost La Salle's rotation. Rookie Mike Gavino will fill in Sharma's shoes, while Ren Ren Ritualo as usual will burn the hoops. Manalo missed Game One after hurting himself during La Salle's practice. Cardona will also torment Ateneo's defense with his unorthodox shots and defense.

St. Benilde dribblers snare WNCAA crown

COLLEGE of St. Benilde outsteadied Lyceum of the Philippines , 76-73, in overtime to win the WNCAA basketball championship for the second straight year at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Felisyl Lizondra played the hero's role for the Blazers as she drilled in a triple and sank two pressure-packed charities in the final 2.7 minutes to preserve the victory for St. Benilde.

The Blazers also bagged last year's crown at the expense of Lyceum.

Lizondra finished with 24 points, while Ice Abesamis added 19 for the Lady Blazers.

St. Benilde finally grabbed the lead for good in overtime on a trey from Lizondra, 74-70, 1:23 left.

The Lady Pirates tried to come back but Sylvia Marie Valencia, Johanna Casa and Hannah Macavinta could only split their free throws for a 74-73 count.

The Lady Blazers then simply wasted away the remaining time to escape with the hard-earned triumph.

"I'm just happy that our pressure defense worked. But I'd like to give credit to Lyceum. They're very tough team," said CSB coach Angelina Fedillaga.

Lyceum sent the game into overtime on a free throw by Rose Camus, 65-all.

In the high school division, Gaby Marco, Eileen Marquez and Angelico Barrascoso finished with 12 points apiece to lead Miriam College to the title with a 59-28 win.

De La Salle-Zobel, meanwhile, won the midget plum by whipping St. Scholastica's College, 61-37. Eileen Urieta led DLS-Zobel with 24 points.

Lyceum, meanwhile, finally avenged its loss to University of the Assumption-Pampanga in volleyball with a four-set victory, (3-1), 25-21; 25-23; 25-17, to wrest this year's title.

Little Olympics blasting off Oct. 6

SCHOLARSHIPS and sports equipment worth over P300,000 await the outstanding performers and schools when the 2001 Milo Little Olympics-NCR kicks off at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Oct. 6.

The most outstanding athletes in the high school and elementary levels will each receive P5,000 in educational assistance, while the champion school will be awarded P40,000 worth of sports equipment and a huge Milo trophy.

Second place is worth P20,000, while the third placers bring home P10,000 worth of equipment.

Schools with the best cheers and biggest delegations during opening day will also be given awards in the Milo student sportsfest set for Oct. 6-7 and 13-14. The event is organized by the CTW group.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium secretariat.

Dimakiling rules chess

DE La Salle's Oliver Dimakiling banked on his rapid and instinctive play to rule the 1st Philippine Chess Society Non-Master Active Open held recently at the President Tower, Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

Registering a higher Buchholz tiebreak of 24.5, the 21-year-old Sports and Recreations Management student edged fellow 5.5 pointer Roland Salvador (24.0) for the PCS club diadem and the P4,000 grand prize.

Clemente Valledor, who posted five markers out of a possible six, and Noel de la Cruz, who chalked up four points, settled for third and fourth place, respectively. The said winners all went home with cash prizes.

Also landing in the top 10 were Robert Cacho, Macapagal Paguital, Ramil Acosta, Fernan Burgos, Michael Ramos and Jeffrey Daclan.

Meanwhile, the October leg of Executive Chess Days will unfurl on Saturday at the same venue at 1 p.m.

For particulars, please call Woman International Master Cristine Mariano at (0919) 295-4340 or Joey Moseros at (0919) 271-9305.

ASPAC BOWLERS

Aspac Advertising team of "bowleros walang takot" receive their prized pins from 4As and Radio Mindanao Network (RMN). In photo are the Aspac team members: (left to right) Jon Salazar, Mayumi Toledo, Oscar Santos, Jr., Liza Francisco, Martha Ramos, Jover Layno, Boy Zarraga, Robin Latonio, Miguel Ramos, Louie Rogacion, with Eric Canoy, RMN president, and March Ventosa, 4As president.

7-STAG MEET

Mandaluyong hosts 4th Ucap derby

CHAMPION stags will be fielded in anew today as Mandaluyong Coliseum's 4th Ucap/Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby fires off at 5 p.m.

A total of 65 quality fights are on tap in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

According to host Raymond Velayo, some of today's derby participants will enter stags that were unbeaten in previous fights.

Among those who paraded top quality fighters in the last three Ucap stagfests were Benjie Lim, Tony Lasala, Butch Macasaet, Biboy Enriquez, Mayor Jessie Viceo, Danding Cojuangco, Richard Bates, Vic Yu, Patrick Antonio and Sonny Lagon, among others.

For other inquiries, please contact 431-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Sportsmen honor 'Chavit'

THE PHILIPPINE Sportsmen Society awarded a plaque of commendation to Gov. and fellow sportsman Luis "Chavit" Singson for his undaunted patriotism valor and courage risking his life in exposing graft and corruption in the government leading to the impeachment trial and Edsa II.

The plaque was presented by PSS president Ray Cordova and directors Lex Gregorio, Hermy Herrera, B. Manual, R. Manuel, Jun Feri, Dr. G. Mejia, E. Mamucod and UP Prof. A. Acuña.

Purefoods stays

By June Navarro

THE PBA Board of Governors yesterday amended its constitution and by-laws to pave the way for the continued existence of Purefoods in the league.

PBA chair Ignatius Yenko said the board tackled the issue amending Sec. 4a of the PBA charter allowing league members to maintain more than two squads in the league.

Prior to the board decision, Sec. 4a prohibits any league member to own three teams at the same time.

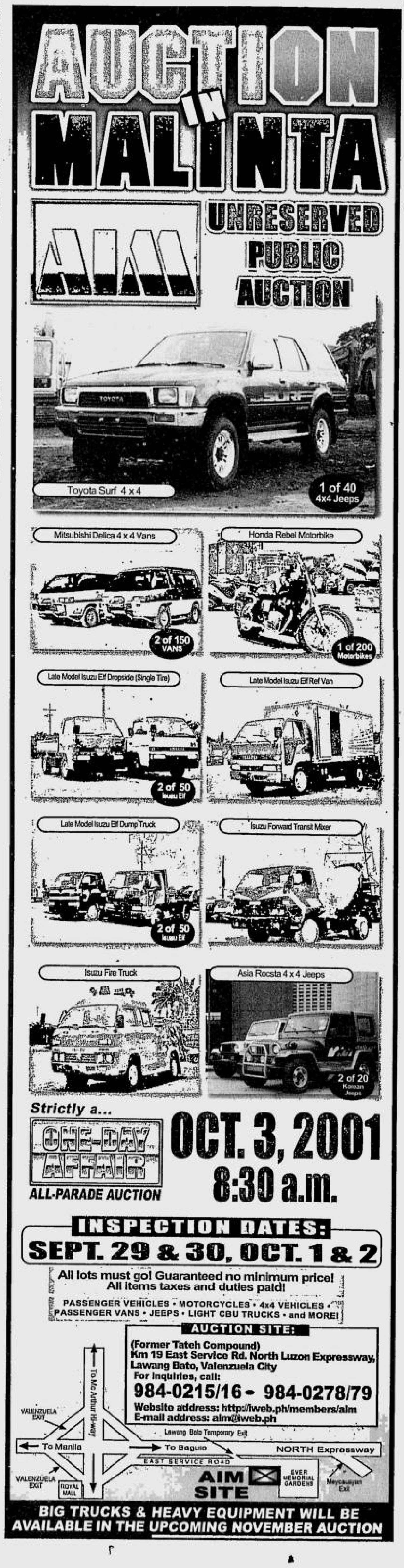
"The board decided on the amendment of the PBA charter thereby allowing the continued participation of Purefoods as a member of the association," said Yenko after emerging from the two-hour meeting at the Manila Golf Club.

As a result, San Miguel Corporation, which owns San Miguel Beer and Barangay Ginebra, can now keep Purefoods in the league without any impediments.

SMC acquired Purefoods this year. Earlier, the board granted the franchise a two-year reprive and may see action only until 2002.

But Yenko said unlike San Miguel Beer and Barangay Ginebra, Purefoods will have no voting rights in accordance with the PBA charter.

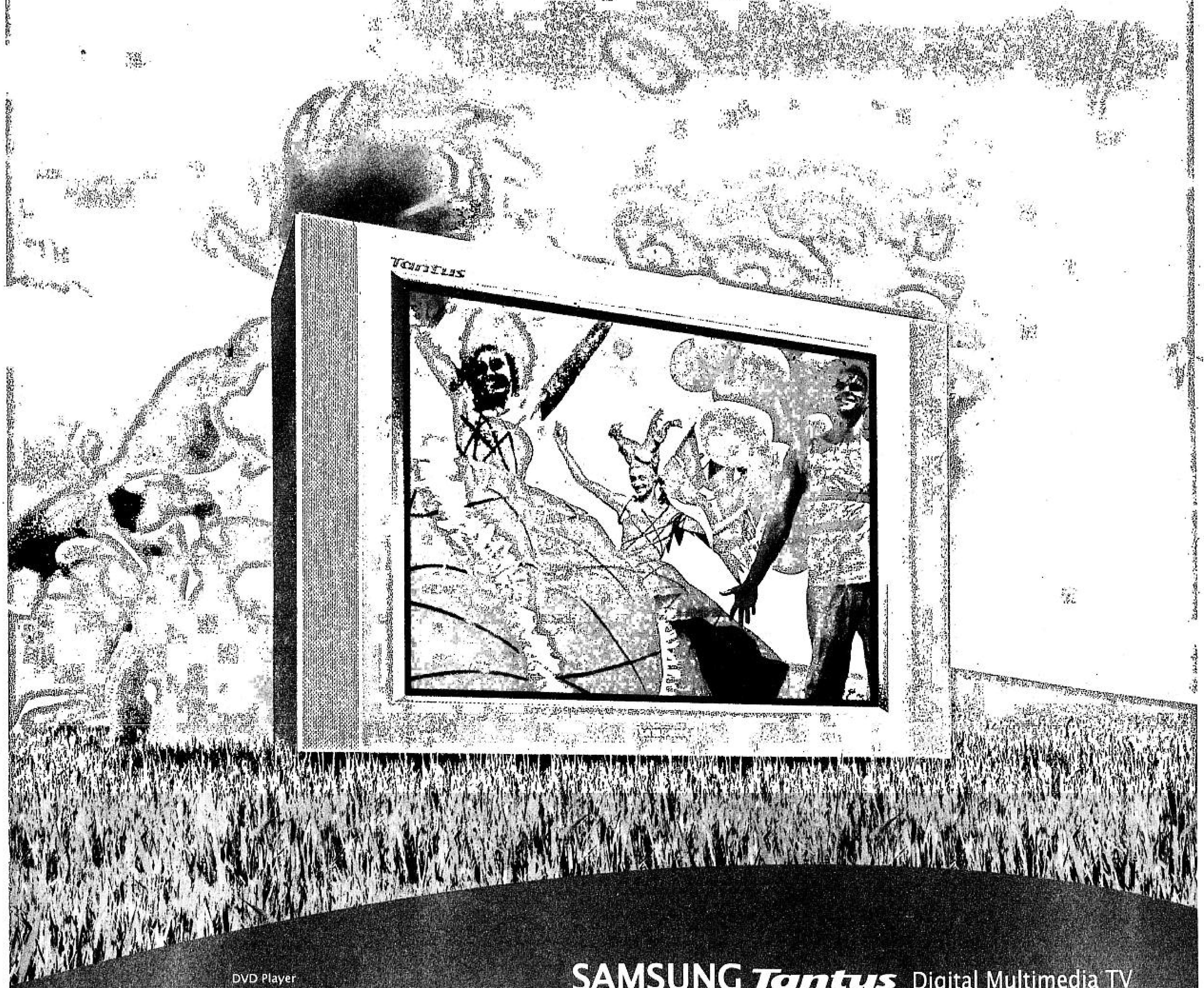
PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino echoed his sentiments, pointing out that even if SMC opted to buy another team in the league, the voting powers will be limited to only two teams.

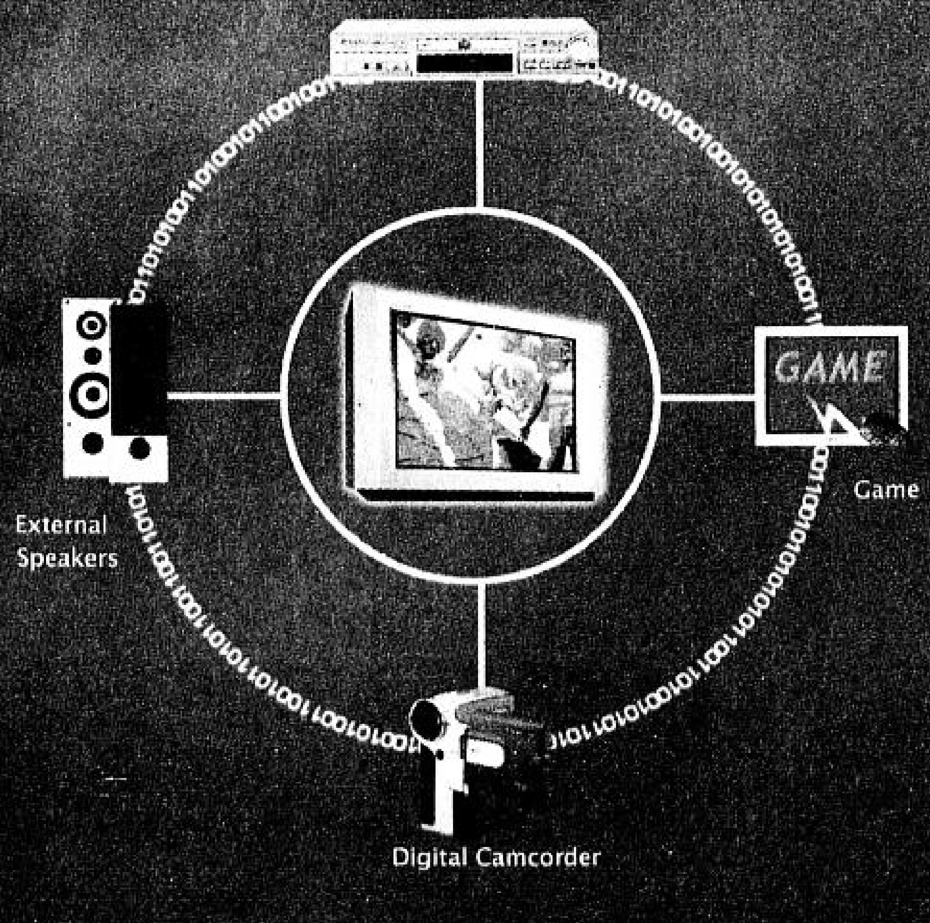


AUCTION IN MALINTA
AIM
UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION
Toyota Surf 4 x 4 — 1 of 40 4x4 Jeeps
Mitsubishi Delica 4 x 4 Vans — 2 of 150 VANS
Honda Rebel Motorbike — 1 of 200 Motorbikes
Late Model Isuzu Elf Dropside (Single Tire) — 2 of 50 Isuzu Elf
Late Model Isuzu Elf Ref Van
Late Model Isuzu Elf Dump Truck — 2 of 50 Isuzu Elf
Isuzu Forward Transit Mixer
Isuzu Fire Truck
Asia Rocsta 4 x 4 Jeeps — 2 of 20 Korean Jeeps
Strictly a... ONE-DAY AFFAIR
ALL-PARADE AUCTION
OCT. 3, 2001
8:30 a.m.
INSPECTION DATES:
SEPT. 29 & 30, OCT. 1 & 2
All lots must go! Guaranteed no minimum price!
All items taxes and duties paid!
PASSENGER VEHICLES • MOTORCYCLES • 4x4 VEHICLES • PASSENGER VANS • JEEPS • LIGHT CBU TRUCKS • and MORE!
AUCTION SITE:
(Former Tatch Compound)
Km 19 East Service Rd. North Luzon Expressway,
Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City
For inquiries, call:
984-0215/16 • 984-0278/79
Website address: http://iweb.ph/members/aim
E-mail address: aim@iweb.ph
BIG TRUCKS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER AUCTION

SAMSUNG

The Digital Multimedia TV. See what you're missing.





SAMSUNG *Tantus* Digital Multimedia TV

The flatscreen TV that brings your digital experience together with stunning clarity.

Samsung brings your television viewing experience to the digital age.
The Samsung Tantus Flat TV. Clear to the eye. Clearly superior digital technology in your home.

DVD Ready

Lifelike colors. Razor-precise imagery. Flicker-free viewing. The best system available for DVD viewing.

2 Tuner Picture-in-Picture

Watch one TV channel on the main screen and scan through others in a subscreen.

Built-in Game

Added entertainment available on your Tantus Digital Multimedia TV.

Impact Port Speaker System

Unmatched sound through superior aerodynamics - diffusing low frequency bass and minimizing unwanted air vibration noise.

Total DSP System (Total Digital Signal Processing)

Every Samsung Tantus Digital Multimedia TV has a processor that encodes and decodes signals completely digitally. This results in both superior pictures and sound, without any distortion or noise.

SAMSUNG DIGIT*all*
everyone's invited™

Samsung Electronics, Phils. Corp. G/F Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Tel. no. 722-7777 For more information, visit www.samsungelectronics.com

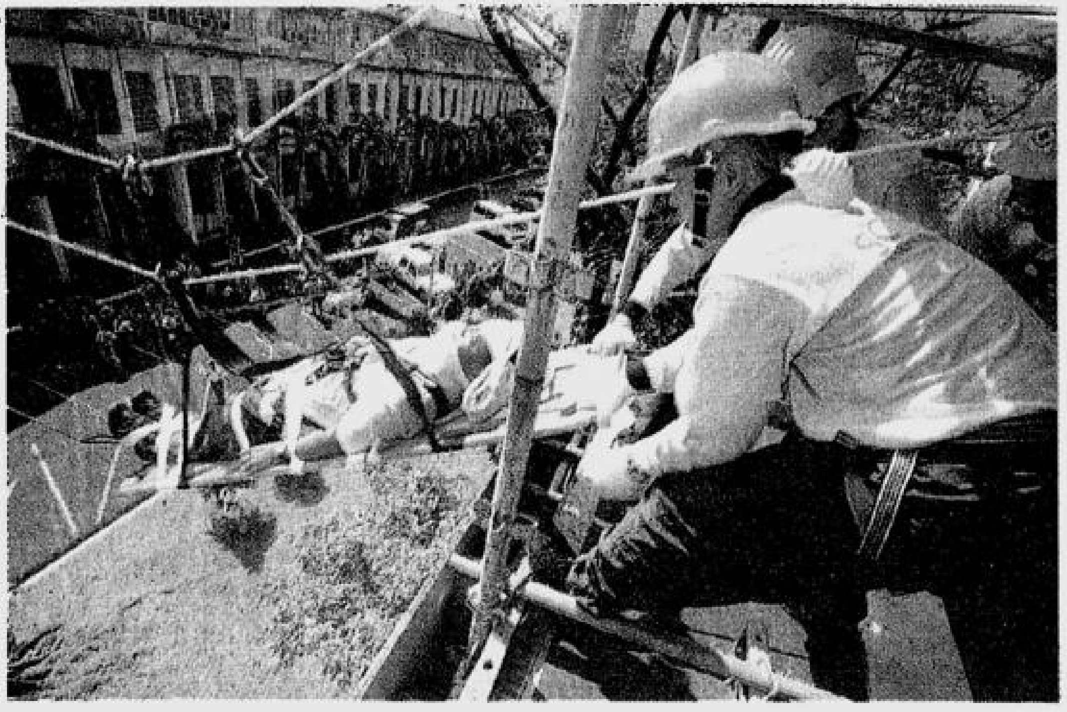
METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- 3 life terms for rapist A18
- Jawo wants toxic fume plant kept closed A18

Ricky siblings to decide when to unplug life support system

BELMONTE



JUST FOR SHOW

Scout Mountaineers hold a rescue demonstration at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines building in Manila as part of the celebration of the BSP's 65th anniversary. ERIK ARAZAS

By Leah Salterio

THE SIBLINGS of actor Ricky Belmonte have to make the painful decision of when to pull the plug on the respirator which has been keeping the actor barely alive in the intensive care unit of Parañaque Medical Center since Sunday morning.

Doctors had declared Belmonte "clinically dead" after he suffered a massive stroke before dawn on Sunday.

Doctors gave Belmonte 48 hours, a source close to the Cruz family said yesterday.

The decision will have to be made by the actor's siblings—Beth, Jeffrey, Danny and Cesar.

"They're still hoping and praying for the best," the family source said. "That's why they've been delaying it.

"But doctors said that even if Ricky wakes up, he would end up a vegetable," the source added.

Belmonte suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and was still in a coma as of press time yesterday. His pulmonary-cardiologist is Dr. Rodolfo Carungin, according to a source in the Parañaque hospital.

"We tried talking to him by whispering in his ear, but he's no longer responding," the actor's eldest child, Renzo Cruz, said in a TV interview.

Belmonte's only daughter, Sheryl, who is based in San Francisco, California, is expected to plane in tonight with her husband, Norman John Bustos.

Belmonte's former wife, Rosemarie Sonora, is also based in California with her American husband.

Sonora, who was also a member of Sampaguita Pictures' Stars '66 like Belmonte, remarried after being separated from the actor.

Belmonte, whose real name is Jesus "Jesse" Cruz and who was born on Christmas Day, was taken to the hospital early Sunday morning when his blood pressure shot up and he complained of a headache.

The Cruz family singing group, 747 Band, wanted to postpone their nightly performance at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Hotel. But the source said, "He would have told them, 'The show must go on.' So last Sunday night, the 747 Band still performed at Mandarin."

The band also performed last night in the hotel.

Belmonte lives with his brother at BF Parañaque. The actor had sold the family residence in Valle Verde, Pasig City, after his two children left for the United States.

Belmonte's youngest son Patrick is also based in San Francisco.

USA Vitamin Sale!

We deliver anywhere in the Philippines!

•Glutathione. 250mg: P27. •Melatonin: P5.
•Grapeseed Extract. 100mg: P13. •MSM: P6.
•Chitosan*(Fat Absorber)*: P7. •Fish Oil: P4.
•Ginkgo. 60mg: P8. •Bee Pollen. 1gram: P6.
•CoQ10. 30mg: P17. •HGH Releaser: P10.
•Ginseng: P4. •Kava: P6. •Lipoic Acid: P10.
•Glucosamine: P10. •Spirulina. 500mg: P5.

Also available: Natural remedies for high cholesterol, diabetes, impotence, arthritis, obesity, BPH, ulcers, cancer, menopause.

For price lists or orders, contact tel. nos.:
928-3464 • 435-0503 • 0919-2596773

P1M pencils, sharpeners for BFP office of 20

By Jerome Aning

AMID concerns that the Bureau of Fire Protection is ill-equipped and undermanned, fire fighters revealed the allegedly anomalous purchase of P1 million worth of pencils, pencil holders and sharpeners early this year.

In a news conference yesterday, a Manila-based organization of non-officer firemen all over the country called on the BFP to explain what it called "a glaring example of the rampant money-making schemes" in the bureau.

Each employee of a 20-man division in the BFP has 600 pencils and 600 sharpeners to use this year, if a document provided to reporters by the United Fire Fighters of the Philippines Inc. is to be believed.

UFFPI spokesperson Alvin Estrada provided copies of the purchase order made by the BFP on Feb. 20, in which the acting BFP head, Chief Supt. Francisco Senot, approved the buying of 12,000 sharpeners and 12,000 pencil holders for the bureau's Fire Safety Enforcement Division.

The sharpeners and the pencil holders, which come with one pencil each, are priced at P40.80 each. The total amount of purchase was P979,200.

Estrada said the FSED is composed of only about 20 personnel. He said the division's main task is to conduct "re-inspections" of buildings and other establishments that have already been inspected by city and municipal fire inspectors.

"What do fire inspectors need hundreds of pencils and hundreds of sharpeners for?" Estrada said. "And why would they use pencils? So that their reports can be easily erased and substituted?"

According to the document, the three brands of pencil holders and three brands of sharpeners were purchased from the Super Quality School & Office Supplies Trading at Boni Serrano Road corner 10th Avenue in Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City.

Aside from Senot's signature, the documents also bore the signatures of BFP logistics chief Senior Supt. Manuel Baduria Sr., procurement officer Chief Insp. Nelson Feliciano, accounting officer Gina Gonzales, and a representative of the supplying company.

Estrada said the document was leaked last week by one of their "concerned" members who is involved in the bidding process for BFP supplies.

He said that the UFFPI is still checking if the purchase actually went through a public bidding. The association would not be surprised if the supplies turned out to be undelivered, he added.

The firemen's organization called on the Ombudsman, the Commission on Audit and Malacañang to investigate the BFP purchase.

"The BFP should concentrate its efforts on the acquisition of much needed fire equipment and the hiring of more firemen, not buying useless supplies," Estrada said.

'Manor victims' kin accepted P40,000 from owners'

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

AT LEAST 10 survivors and relatives of those who died in the Aug. 18 Manor Hotel fire have decided not to pursue their case against the hotel owners in exchange for P40,000 each.

Lawyer Benito Ambrosio, who represents hotel owners William and Rebecca Genato, said the survivors and the victims' relatives issued affidavits of desistance a few days after the owners and four others were charged for the hotel fire before the Quezon City Metropolitan Court.

More than 80 people were killed while scores of others were injured in the fire.

In a phone interview, Ambrosio said at least 20 survivors and victims' relatives went to their law office over the weekend to talk with Rebecca Genato.

Ambrosio said Genato reasoned out with the survivors and victims' relatives and managed to persuade some of them to drop the charges in exchange for the settlement.

"As far as I know, Mrs. Genato paid about 10 people," he said.

Ambrosio also revealed that his clients had been "silently" helping out the survivors and victims' relatives by shouldering the burial or hospital expenses.

"Mrs. Genato was crying most of the time," he said. "But the good thing is, they understood her."

Ambrosio said it was through the help of police investigators that the survivors and relatives reached the Genatos.

But most of the survivors and victims' relatives told the Inquirer over the weekend that they would pursue the legal charges against the Genatos.

Lawyers helping out victims of the Manor hotel tragedy are reported to be thinking of amending the charges from reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide to multiple homicide, a higher criminal offense.

Aside from the Genatos, named as respondents in the case were incorporators Porfirio Germina, Marion Fernandez, Dionisio Cua Arengino and Antonio Beltran.

Joseph Santos, president of the Ozone Victims' Foundation, said the charge against the hotel owners and incorporators should have been homicide because the tragedy resulted from their deliberate action.

Santos explained that in reckless imprudence cases, respondents are unaware of their actions.

But in the case of the Manor Hotel, the fire came about because the owners failed to do anything about the building's violations of the fire safety code.

Most of the victims were members of different born-again Christian groups who attended a three-day conference of a Texas-based evangelist.

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day CAFE ST FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	MULATTO (OCT 2, TUESDAY)	FIRST CIRCLE OCT. 6 ☎ 634.7696/98
BUMA 9595 KAMAGONG ST. MAKATI	MOONSTRUCKS DYNO SOULS	896.2116/896.1939
Café OVERDRIVE	ARTHUR MANUNTAG	FREE ENTRANCE 818.5555/813.1348
CHATTERBOX WEST 41 WEST AVE. QUEZON CITY	DIVAS	ALLAN K OCT. 6 411.3650/374.3750
Cowboy Grill BRGY. ALMANZA LAS PINAS	KOOL JACKS GOALKEYS	WENCY CORNEJO OCT. 16 ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1192 ARQUIZA ST. MALATE	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD STAY TUNED/FREEZE	FREDDIE A. OCT. 11 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	SERSIDE PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	ALAMID PRYRIGIAN/HIMIG	FREDDIE A. OCT. 24 ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q. C.	PASSAGE VOLK VIRUS /BAND AT WORK	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	OPUS KEY & JOSHUA	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	CITY BORN	SOUTBORDER OCT. 9 AT REMEDIOS
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant	LIMITED EDITION	LUNCH SPECIAL P 250 MON-FRI/400.7438
OTHER PLACES		
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA.	FAT 16 BROWNIE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ (049) 511.7268
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	YINYANG	TRUE FAITH OCT. 12 FREESTYLE NOV. 2
THE VENUE DAVAO JACINTO EXT. DAVAO	NOTY NOTES	GLADYS & BOXER N/ KOCT. 31 ☎ (082) 224.4150

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 912-8983

Realizing Your Family's Needs!

KIA MOTORS

Photo may vary from actual unit.

At Prince, we made the KIA SPORTAGE and the RIO more affordable.

NO DOWNPAYMENT PLAN*

Limited Supply

*Accepts Trade-in

Sportage

PRINCE COMMONWEALTH
43 Commonwealth Ave., Q. City
Tels: 951-2201 Fax: 932-7648

PRINCE MOTOR CORPORATION

PRINCE QUEZON AVENUE
1140 Quezon Ave., Q. City
Tels: 374-3911 Fax: 411-2721

Rio

Authorized Dealer and Service Center * Sales, Service, Parts, and Accessories

PASASALAMAT SALE 2001

Have An Enchanted Weekend!

Enchanted Kingdom

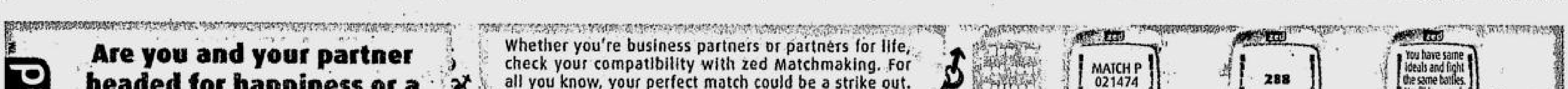
Visit your CASIO dealer today!

See Posters & Flyers for details

Purchase a CASIO Keyboard

PROMO PERIOD: OCT. 1-31, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.2734, Series of 2001



zed

Are you and your partner headed for happiness or a showbiz break-up?

Whether you're business partners or partners for life, check your compatibility with zed Matchmaking. For all you know, your perfect match could be a strike out.

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per matchmaking report. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.

MATCH P 021474 062170

For personal, type in MATCH P <BIRTHDAY1> <BIRTHDAY2> Ex. MATCH P 021474 062170

For business, type in MATCH B <BIRTHDAY1> <BIRTHDAY2> Ex. MATCH B 021474 062170

288

Send to 288.

You have same ideals and fight the same battles. You'll love each other forever

You will receive a matchmaking report in a moment.

Erap trial good for the country

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE START of the trial yesterday of former President Joseph "Ejercito" Estrada at the Sandiganbayan sent a strong message to those in the government that it doesn't pay to abuse one's position.

The has-been actor, who's known as Erap to his friends and cronies, is the first president of the republic to be charged with a crime, and a heinous crime at that. Under the law, plunder is punishable with death by lethal injection.

When I saw Erap and his son Jinggoy on television yesterday being led to the Sandiganbayan courtroom, I was stricken with pity for the man. Imagine the once most powerful man now being subjected to such humiliation!

***

But I told myself, why should you pity a guy who didn't think of the welfare of the people, especially the poor and the illiterate who composed the bulk that elected him to the highest position of the land?

Erap thought that the highest position of the land would shield him from criminal charges even after his term was finished. Hubris, that's the term for it.

But alas and alack, he was wrong. He was ousted by the people in a military-backed revolt and now he's a caged man.

***

Even if he's acquitted— a big "if "—the strong message will be sent to government officials and employees that stealing from the people or abusing their trust doesn't pay.

The people stand to benefit from the Erap trial: They will receive much better services from the so-called public servants.

Erap's trial and the anti-money laundering law passed recently will probably start the country on the road to real progress. Who knows, the golden years for our country might be just around the corner?

***

Why does the Sandiganbayan pussy-foot in hearing a graft case which did not merit as much publicity as the plunder case against Erap?

For several months now, the Sandiganbayan has been sitting on the case filed by the Ombudsman against several people, including former top government officials during the Erap administration.

The anti-graft case concerned a government land titled and converted into the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Cavite.

***

Some of the big players in the case are former Cavite Gov. Juanito Remulla, the alleged owner of the resort; Kawit Mayor Federico Poblete who allegedly used his position as undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform in having the land titled; Rodrigo Caimol, former vice mayor of Kawit; and former and incumbent members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Kawit.

If the Sandiganbayan wants to further show the citizenry that stealing from the government doesn't pay, this case is it.

There is strong evidence against the accused in this case.

***

The case was first heard by the Senate's blue ribbon committee which found that there was a scam in the titling and reclamation of the cove by a private entity.

Committee Report No. 227 is the title of the results of the investigation of the scam. The committee was then headed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

The committee recommended the prosecution of all the respondents. It championed the rights of more than 200 fisherfolk and their families who were deprived of their livelihood when the cove was made into a resort.

***

Police Deputy Director General (three-star rank) Edgar Galvante will soon be retiring and leave vacant the post of the director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

NCRPO is the country's No. 1 regional police office. It is the most sought after position among all the regional offices because its chief is a candidate for the position of the chief of the Philippine National Police.

Several star-rank officers within the PNP are being bruited about to replace Galvante. One of them is two-star general Efren Q. Fernandez, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971.

***

Fernandez , now the chief of the PNP directorate for personnel and records management, is best suited for the job.

He is not new to Metro Manila since he was chief of the Western Police District (WPD) years ago.

But many in the PNP think he will get the job, anyway, because the Macapagal-Arroyo administration owes it to him.

Fernandez led a group of policemen who repulsed about 50,000 Erap loyalists at the Mendiola gate of Malacañang.

3 life terms for rapist

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A 53-YEAR-OLD man was sentenced by a Valenzuela City court to three life terms in prison for raping the 14-year-old daughter of his live-in partner in January 2000.

Judge Floro Alejo sentenced the convicted rapist to life imprisonment for each sexual attack he made on the girl. Judge Alejo also ordered him to pay his victim at least P150,000 in damages.

Court records showed that the girl ran away from home on Jan. 11, 2000 after her grandmother scolded her for not cooking rice. The girl had been living with her grandmother after her mother abandoned her.

The girl went to stay with her godmother, who was living with the accused.

While the girl was sleeping in her room about 7 p.m. of Jan. 11, the man sneaked into the room and raped her, records showed.

The girl told the court that the convict, whom she referred to as her "second father," threatened to kill her parents if she would resist his attacks. She said he also promised to give her money.

The records showed that the convicted rapist sexually abused the girl for the next two days.

But on Jan. 13, the girl escaped from her godmother's house and reported the rapes to a relative.

In his testimony, the accused maintained his innocence and accused the girl of fabricating the rape story since he often scolded her for flirting with his friends.

Jawo wants chemical plant kept closed

BY AGNES E. DONATO

SEN. Robert Jaworski has recommended the continued closure of the LMG-Chemphil plant in Pasig City, which emitted toxic fumes that allegedly caused the death of a resident on Aug. 19.

Jaworski, head of the Senate committee on ecology and environment, and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon on Friday inspected the sulfuric acid plant.

Jaworski's order circumvented an earlier memorandum of agreement signed by a multi-party monitoring team allowing Chemphil to operate for 30 days, effective Sept. 26.

Pasig Councilor Andy Santiago said the senators proved for themselves during the inspection that the plant was indeed closed in accordance with a cease and desist order issued by the local government and environmental agencies.

"Senator Jaworski ordered that the plant be kept closed while the different issues regarding its operation were still being resolved," Santiago said.

Among the issues that have to be resolved were the remedial measures LMG-Chemphil had to undertake to prevent gas leaks, the use of an early warning system in the event of any trouble in the plant operation, and the maintenance of a liability insurance for the victims of such incidents, according to Santiago.

LMG-Chemphil had admitted that the gas leak that allegedly killed Ana Cahindi, 54, and caused the hospitalization of 30 other residents of Barangay Pinagbuhatan occurred when the spray nozzle of the sulfur gun was partly disengaged after the start-up of the plant.

In the MOA, the plant was allowed to operate again for 30 days, on condition that it would be closely monitored by a team composed of representatives from LMG-Chemphil, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Pasig City government, barangays Kalawaan and Pinagbuhatan, and two resident organizations.

The MOA also compelled the plant administration to take measures to ensure that a similar incident would not happen and to implement an emergency medical community assistance program for the treatment of future cases resulting from the plant's abnormal operations, among others.

DENR exec sues Alvarez for libel over press statement

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

AN EXECUTIVE of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday filed a P5-million libel lawsuit against Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Director Peter Anthony Abaya, formerly of the Environment Management Bureau, filed the lawsuit in connection with a press release from the office of Alvarez which accused the former of colluding with private firms in the importation of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

The press release, dated Sept. 20 and titled "Abaya, ODS importers will be held liable — Alvarez," came out in several newspapers on Sept. 21.

The press statement announced the recommendation of an investigating panel to charge Abaya administratively and criminally for allegedly conniving with private firms in importing hazardous chemicals.

The EMB issues environmental and pre-shipment importation clearances.

Alvarez maintained in the press statement that the investigating team found prima facie evidence against Abaya.

The press release also said that the team "of legal experts" found evidence that "Abaya committed grave misconduct for granting pre-shipment importation clearances in favor of unregistered importers and in excess of the allowable ODS importation for the 2000."

Abaya's action, according to Alvarez, violated not only a number of Philippine laws but also the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

But in his 10-page affidavit, Abaya virtually accused Alvarez of deliberately discrediting him.

The decision to charge Abaya was made a day before he was supposed to be appointed assistant secretary.

"All of these derogatory imputations and malicious allegations were obviously targeted at the undersigned and nobody else since he is the only subject of the press release," Abaya said in his complaint.

He said the filing of the administrative charges was maliciously motivated and was undertaken because of his refusal to comply with Alvarez's previous "illegal orders and directives" for him to tender a "courtesy resignation" and later to transfer to Region VI.

"Needless to state, (Alvarez's) illicit actions and actuation has forever unjustly and irrevocably slurred and tarnished complainant's record and performance as a public servant," Abaya stressed.

He said that during his stint as EMB director, he won various awards and recognitions, including the "Most Outstanding Bureau Director" awarded by the DENR.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 2, 2001
The Guardian Angels

1st Reading: **Zec 8:20-23**
Gospel: **Mt 18:1-5, 10**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked him, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child, set the child in the midst of the disciples, and said, "I assure you that unless you change and become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes lowly like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and whoever receives such a child in my name receives me.

See that you do not despise any of these little ones, for I tell you: their angels in heaven continually see the face of my heavenly Father."

Commentary

Again as yesterday's gospel reading, the question is about who is the greatest. But this time, it is Jesus who asks the question and right away gives the answer. In Matthew, the little one is the name for the lowliest believer. The humble or humiliated Christian who is of no account to others is the greatest before God. Do you want to be counted among God's favorites? Then forget your pride and ambition. Jesus gives a stern warning to those who do harm to his little ones making life hard for them. Don't you ever try to do that. If you do, you will be fighting God. He is ready to protect his favorites. He sends their guardian angels.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Inconsistencies between sworn statements and testimonies—With respect to the contradictions between the sworn statements and the testimonies in court, it has been observed that such testimonies are oftentimes due to the fact that affidavits are generally not prepared by the affiants themselves but by others, like police investigators, and are only signed by the affiants. In any event, the witnesses should have been shown their prior inconsistent statements and given a chance to explain themselves, as required by Rule 132, Section 13. This was not done in this case. The witnesses were never confronted during the trial with the alleged inconsistencies between their affidavits and their testimonies and asked to explain them. It is only now on appeal that the question is raised. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606 and 138607, January 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

'All-out war' vs colorum vehicles

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday said his department's operations against colorum buses and FX taxis plying Edsa would begin Thursday.

The campaign is a joint project of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Metropolitan Manila

Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG) and the Department of Justice.

Alvarez said the agencies would work overtime to minimize if not totally eliminate the presence of colorum vehicles that become venues for crimes like robbery and rape.

He said these vehicles also rob the government of taxes as they do not pass through the legal process of paying for a franchise.

"We don't have the figures as to how much the government loses in taxes because of these colorum vehicles, but we do know that around 50 percent of the buses that run on Edsa are colorum," he said.

Colorum vehicles that would get caught would be impounded and owners would have to pay a certain amount as "storage fee."

He also signed a department order lifting the "flexibility rule" for buses in Metro Manila.

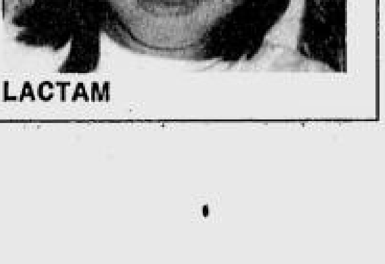
LTFRB chair Dante Lantin said Department Order 2001-83 suspends the flexibility rule for all buses on Edsa.

The flexibility rule allowed buses to run on Edsa even when they do not have franchises for that route. He said his office has already opened other bus routes but Edsa seemed to be the favorite route of buses.

Missing

MARIGLO Lactam, 20, has been reported missing since Sept. 28.

For information leading to her whereabouts, please call Shyla or Gloria Lactam at 430-7781.



LACTAM

METROBRIEFS

2 stabbed, 1 shot in QC

TWO men were stabbed dead and a third was shot dead in three incidents Sunday, all in Quezon City. Norberto Villate stabbed barangay officer Venancio Canega, 52, Sunday afternoon allegedly because water from a busted pipe near Canega's house had flooded the community's covered basketball court in Barangay Commonwealth. The pipe was allegedly busted while Canega was having his house repaired. Villate, of Mapalad Street, escaped, said PO1 Edwin de la Cruz of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. Police are also investigating the suspect's father, Berting, whom witnesses said joined his son in killing Canega. Sunday night, an unidentified suspected drug addict stabbed dead Salvador Malaguena, 39, in front of his wife Gemma Merino outside the Mercury Drug Store at the corner of Edsa and Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez. The policeman said Malaguena and Merino were waiting for a ride outside the drug store around 11 p.m. when the suspect struck and lunged at Malaguena with an icepick. Printing machine operator Ernesto Gapi, 22, was shot dead while he was on his way to buy food for a co-worker's birthday party, also in Quezon City, police said. Gapi, a stay-in printing machine operator of Good Ream Printers in Barangay Laging Handa, was shot by unidentified suspects, said investigator SPO3 Resty De Leon. Good Ream security guard Orcile Vesto told investigators that a few minutes after Gapi left the compound to buy *pulutan*, Vesto heard successive gunshots. Then he heard pounding on the gate of the compound. When he opened it, he saw a bleeding Vesto, who collapsed.

Philip C. Tubeza

ARMM cop shoots wife in Pasig

PO2 ARNEL Canonigo, assigned to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, yesterday morning shot and seriously injured his wife in Pasig City. Canonigo, formerly of the Pasig City police, hit his wife once in the back, investigators said. She is now being treated at the Pasig City General Hospital. Canonigo fled after the shooting, said PO3 Efren Calix. Caliz said the shooting happened around 9:45 p.m. in the couple's house on Villa Baltazar Street in Barangay Palatiw Kanan. Canonigo was reportedly watching television when the screen began to flicker. The policeman began to club the TV set with his .38 caliber revolver. When his wife tried to stop him, he shot her and then he fled with the gun, the investigator said. Calix said the suspect was transferred to ARMM after he was caught sleeping on the job during a surprise inspection by his superiors in the Pasig police. The suspect was absent without official leave, the investigator added.

Agnes Donato

Woman attacked while watching TV

MANILA police are looking for an unidentified man who stabbed to death Elizabeth Celis, 43, while she was watching television in Sta. Cruz, Manila Sunday night. Police are still trying to determine whether the killing was a result of a botched robbery, a deliberate murder or a case of thrill killing. Neighbors said the suspect had "piercing eyes," police said. Celis, an employee of the Interface Computer Center, suffered several stab wounds in the chest and back, said SPO4 Rodolfo Rival Jr. Rival said the suspect entered Celis' house on Rizal Avenue around 6 p.m. Sunday. Minutes later, Celis rushed out of the house, bleeding and screaming. She died at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Jerome Aning

'Outright inaccurate'

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday flatly denied reports that it had implicated groups identified with then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the ones responsible for the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila.

NBI officials said the reports, which came out in at least two newspapers on Saturday, "were outright inaccurate."

NBI Assistant Regional Director Elfren Meneses told the Inquirer yesterday that the NBI investigation zeroed in on those who directly participated in the bombings.

"We have identified (the ones) who planted the bombs," Meneses said. "But we were not able to identify the people who masterminded the bombings."

Thus, he said, it was impossible for the agency to accuse any group, much less implicate people identified with the present administration.

Meneses, who heads the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division that investigated the spate of bomb attacks, said the NBI report did confirm that the bombings were really meant to destabilize the Estrada administration.

The eight-page report signed by NBI officer in charge Lolito Utitco was submitted to the Department of Justice last week.

In the report, Utitco asked the DOJ to conduct preliminary investigation of the murder and multiple murder charges against eight people, most of whom have Muslim-sounding names.

Utitco identified the suspects as a Col. Efren Torres, Sammy Arinday, Hadji Onos, Amir Dimaampo, Salvin Camama, Ibrahim Guindolongan, Roberto Onyot and Rogelio Cagadas.

Utitco said seven witnesses, including the one who allegedly made the bombs, positively identified the eight men as the perpetrators of the bombings.

The bomb attacks killed 22 people and injured 96 others.

The NBI report said the eight suspects "conspired to sow chaos in the metropolis by planting bombs at the LRT Blumentritt Station and Plaza Ferguzon in front of the US Embassy, both in Manila; NAIA Air Cargo Parking Lot A in Pasay City; Petron Gas Station on Edsa corner Pasay Road in Makati City; and on board an Edsan bus liner which exploded in Cubao, Quezon City.

Investigation showed the eight were recruited from Mindanao to go to Manila to join the anti-Estrada rallies at the height of the impeachment trial last year.

A member of the group, Camid Cabugatan, testified they were recruited by Arinday. Prior to the bombings, the group stayed at the Marantao Lodge in Quiapo, Manila.

But Meneses' men failed to uncover the ones who had hired Arinday to form the group.

Cabugatan claimed that four days before the bombings, Arinday and Torres delivered "black powder" to be used in making the bombs.

Both Arinday and Torres were reportedly trained in handling explosives by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from 1982 to 1985.

On Dec. 27, one of the group's members, Elmer Diamla, was arrested by the Presidential Security Group for carrying an improvised bomb inside Malacañang grounds.

The MILF was initially blamed for the bombings, but critics suspect that the attacks were allegedly carried out by henchmen of former President Estrada to divert the public's attention from the impeachment trial.

2 days with no water

PORTIONS of Quezon City and Manila will experience a 48-hour water service interruption starting 10 p.m. Friday to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Maynilad said interconnection work will be done along D. Tuazon, Quezon Avenue and E. Rodriguez Avenue on those days.

To be rendered waterless in Quezon City are Manresa, San Jose, Damar Village, Maharlika, N.S. Amoranto, Lourdes, Paang Bundok, Sta. Teresita, Salvacion St. Peter, San Isidro Labrador, Doña Josefa, Tatalon, Don Manuel, Doña Aurora and San Isidro; and in Manila, Sta. Cruz and Sampaloc.

Affected customers are advised to store water good for the duration of the water service interruption. They may call Maynilad hotline 1626 for the water-rationing schedule.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	HEART BREAKERS
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	FAST & FURIOUS
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	SISID
8	KNIGHT'S TALE

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161416

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	ENEMY AT THE GATES
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	SISID
9	KNIGHT'S TALE
10	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	HEART BREAKERS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	SCARY MOVIE 2
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	SISID

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	SISID
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	BANYO QUEEN
11	SCARY MOVIE 2
12	PRINCESS DIARIES

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	HEART BREAKERS
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES
8	SCARY MOVIE 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	SISID
11	BANYO QUEEN
12	A.I.

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	SISID
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	LA VIDA ROSA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	HEART BREAKERS
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	FAST & FURIOUS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	SISID
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	SISID
7	CLOSED
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820005

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	SISID

SM CEBU 2313836

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	CLOSED
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	SEX MEDUSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	CLOSED
8	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	SISID
6	LA VIDA ROSA

SM SUCAT 8264915

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	SISID

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

SOON TO OPEN
6 STATE-OF-THE-ART
MOVIE THEATERS

DIGITAL dts SOUND — DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	SISID (Adv. Screening)

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 4

1	LA VIDA ROSA In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	FAST & FURIOUS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	FAST & FURIOUS THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	FERDINANDO & CAROLINA (Exclusive Phil. Pemiere) Art Film In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	HEART BREAKERS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PRINCESS DIARIES In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ORIGINAL SIN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	LA VIDA ROSA In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	FAST & FURIOUS In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	HEART BREAKERS In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	OGIE SINGS ALCASID OCT. 5 & 6 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	FAST & FURIOUS THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	HEART BREAKERS In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PRINCESS DIARIES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SISID (Adv. Screening) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LA VIDA ROSA In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ORIGNAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 [illegible]	SISID
9 [illegible]	LA VIDA ROSA
10 [illegible]	LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	HEART BREAKERS
4	PUKYUTAN
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	LA VIDA ROSA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	SISID

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	HEART BREAKER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	ORIGINAL SIN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	SISID
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

FAST & FURIOUS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SHREK
2	BANYO QUEEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	PITCH BLACK
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BURLESK QUEEN
A	LA VIDA ROSA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SISID
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
8 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	LA VIDA ROSA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	SISID
6 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN
9	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	SISID
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	ORIGINAL SIN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEXUAL MALICE
Lords	MAGENTA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	LA VIDA ROSA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	PRINCESS DIARIES

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SISID

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (DTS)	SISID
3 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	SISID
2 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
3 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ENEMY OF THE GATES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SISID
2	KAMASUTRA
3	PUKYUTAN
4 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	CROCODILE
5	SISID

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	SISID

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	NURSE BETTY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DTS)	SISID

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM 2
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	BANYO QUEEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	CROCODILE
4 (DTS EX)	ORIGINAL SIN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THX
PREMIERE CINEMA THX
NOW SHOWING
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
MOTOLITE
VIVA

CMG INTERNATIONAL
Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. No.: 700-8314 to 15
E-Mail: premierethx@asia.com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 785-3182 to 56
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail: hiraj@netasia.mni.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA 632 9115 16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	FAST & FURIOUS
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	SISID
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES
8	ORIGINAL SIN
9	A KNIGHT'S TALE
10	PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	SISID
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	RESERVE
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PRINCESS DIARIES

IMUS (046) 471-8168

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	SISID

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	A.I.
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	SCARY MOVIE 2

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BANYO QUEEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PARU PARONG LIGAW / MAGENTA
ODEON	SISID
ODEON-2	ORIGINAL SIN
ROBEN	LA VIDA ROSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SISID
REMAR	LA VIDA ROSA
REMAR-2	SISID
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LA VIDA ROSA
B	SISID (open Oct. 1, 2001 sneak preview)
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	FAST & FURIOUS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-4	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-5	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-6	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
CINEMA-2	ALFREDO LIM
CINEMA-4	RATRATAN

Karylle releases second single

AFTER the success of her first single which earned for her the best new female artist trophy in the 14th Aliw Awards, Karylle recently released her second single, "Bakit Ba Ikaw."

The song is culled from her debut album under Universal Records.

"Bakit Ba Ikaw" is a revival of an earlier hit by Geneva Cruz and was composed by Ito Rapadas of The Neocolours.

The song is a typical ballad which and is very different from Karylle's upbeat debut single.

Karylle first came to attention of show biz people when she played the role of Princess Sapphire in the first production of "Little Mermaid."

Karylle is now concentrating on her singing and hosting.

Aside from promoting her album, she will soon start her own portion on GMA 7's Sunday noontime show, "SOP."

Karylle is now being managed by Ronnie and Ida Henares of Primeline Inc.

Campus tour

GARY Valenciano resumes his campus tour when he stages his hit concert, "Gary V: By Request," Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Like his previous "By Request" concerts, Gary's UP show will have him singing tunes requested by UP students, faculty members and employees.

A few weeks before the show, Gary's production people went around the campus to find out what the audience wanted Gary to sing.

Among the most requested tunes were cuts from Gary's latest album, "Revive," under Universal Records. The CD was repackaged recently with a free VCD featuring the videos of "Lupa" and "I Will Be Here."

Gary remains one of the busiest artists in the local entertainment scene. He was recently named best major concert act (male) in the 14th Aliw Awards.

After his UP show, Gary is slated to do more out-of-town concerts as part of his "Radical" series which he also conceptualized.

Gary will perform at the La Salle Gym in Bacolod City on Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.

He will be at the University of Baguio Gym on Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Gary, who recently arrived for a successful performance in New Zealand, will also do more shows abroad. He will perform at the anniversary celebration of the Lord of the Harvest Global Ministries, Oct. 14 at the Mraino Hall in Chiba-Ken in Japan.

When he returns, Gary will be one of the featured performers in the much-awaited "X-Static" concert on Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, with Lani Misalucha, Carol Banawa, Aiza Seguerra, Donita Rose, Piolo Pascual and The Maneouvres.

Tickets for Gary's UP show are at P250 each. The show is sponsored by Astring-O-Sol, Goldilocks and Alaska, with Mon Faustino as musical director.

For ticket inquiries, call Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc. at 721-4405 or 721-4406.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Best of the best

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER viewing many of the movies showing in the Fukuoka Focus on Asia filmfest, we are better able to appreciate the best of the best in terms of film achievement in the region. All told, which countries appear to be at the forefront of Asian filmmaking?

Iran is eagerly one of them. It is represented at the Fukuoka filmfest by an inordinately large number of movies—"Baran," "Oil Children," "Under the Skin of the City," "A Time for Drunken Horses."

The country's movies are distinguished by a unique combination of purity, commitment to tackling social and political issues, and strong focus on family relationships.

This combination is unusual because its elements would sometimes appear to contradict each other. For instance, how can purity of vision survive when messy contemporary issues are touched on?

But Iranian filmmakers seem to have the knack to do several things at the same time. For instance, in "Oil Children," the oppression of poor people by petroleum companies are is strongly portrayed, but the pure and innocent element is provided by the focus on children trying to remain children in such a hostile world.

It is the focus on individuals rather than masses of people that prevent committed Iranian movies from ending up as mere propaganda tracts. As a result of this personal slant, viewers appreciate the political or social points being made, but can also relate in an emotional way to the lives of the empathetic characters who people Iranian films.

Another country that comes on strong at the Fukuoka filmfest is India, despite the fact that it is represented by only one film, "House of Memories."

The film is an exceptionally affecting and complex look at male-female relations in India, as seen through the "window" of the death of a wife and mother.

She has kept hearth and home together for her husband and children, but remains under-appreciated, despite the expected display of excessive emotion at her passing. Her life has been soured by her having to take care of a daughter who is mentally ill, and she has gotten no help from her family in their regard.

Her only helpmeet is her daughter-in-law, who has to cope with her own tragedy: her only son has cerebral palsy. The pain they share creates a strong bond between them, but quite instructively, the movie has the daughter-in-law refusing to suffer forever like the older woman.

While she feels for her mother-in-law, she decides to save herself by bailing out of her loveless marriage upon the death of her son, and finally finding love and respect with another man.

This film's achievement shows that Indian filmmakers are capable of tackling both traditional and contemporary themes in a single production, no mean achievement anywhere in the world of cinema.

The Philippines also makes a particularly strong showing at Fukuoka, what with the screening of **Rory B. Quintos'** "Anak (Child)" and the retrospective showing of seven of Marilou Diaz-Abaya's best films.

These movies have had a strong impact on audiences at Fukuoka because they deal with important themes, but make it a point to personalize them by focusing on individuals rather than stereotypes.

Other strong players in Fukuoka include China and Taiwan, which are represented by significant productions like "Beijing Bicycle" and "Fleeing by Night," respectively.

These effective films show regional filmmaking at its best, and shows why Asian cinema is on a roll on the world scene, with many Asian filmmakers being tapped to make movies in the west.

Now that its proven that it can compete internationally without having to lose its integrity and identity, there's nowhere else to go but up for Asian cinema.

Are Paolo and Maxine living together?

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

A FRIEND whose relatives live in the same village as **Paolo Bediones** e-mailed me this startling information.

"Hi, Dolly, "Just asking. Are Paolo Bediones and **Maxine** living in?

Coming from the **Martin Nievera** concert at Greenbelt (where Maxine was the front act), I brought my cousins home to the same village where Paolo lives. Guess who I saw right in front of Paolo's garage? Maxine herself in her concert get-up! Her car seemed comfortably parked in there, too. What was she doing there at past midnight? We just all like stared at each other in disbelief.

"Please don't say my name. My family name will be a giveaway 'cause my cousins live near Paolo and he might find out. It's a small village and I guess people know each other. Thanks Dolly!—***Name withheld upon request***

I am not one who would jump to conclusions but I think the matter is intriguing enough to be looked into. If other people must beware of dogs, celebrities ought to be wary of their neighbors. They should have their own version of Sesame Street's "Who are the people in your neighborhood?" before they "Open Sesame" their doors to their midnight visitors.

Moral of the story: Love thy neighbor 'cause you never know when they are looking your way.

Silk

I HARDLY watch TV but my radio is on 24 hours a day. I even have a radio in the shower. When I'm on the road, the first thing I ask the driver or whoever is driving is to turn on the radio. Sometimes I have the gall to ask them to listen to the station I feel like listening to. Too bad music does not love me back because I'm tone deaf. But I know good music when I hear it.

I enjoy listening to live bands when I have the time to unwind. My most recent favorite band is Silk.

I got curious to know more about the band because every time I chance upon their gigs it's usually a full-house even on weekdays.

After having watched Silk perform, I know why. The band lives up to its name with its silky smooth renditions.

Silk (**Caroline Hofer**, **Carmelle Sison** and **Arlene Salvado**) would rather sound good than look good but they are lucky enough to have been born beautiful.

The three singers look up to **Lani Misalucha** and vow that they will never ever let success affect their sisterhood. They are recording their first album from Sony Music which will feature all-original songs.

I'm so smitten by Silk that I'm tempted to give them one of my compositions. It would be a thrill to hear my words sung and not just read. Don't let me sing, though. That would be the day.

Catch Silk Mondays at Strumms El Pueblo, Tuesdays at Chatterbox Galleria, Fridays at Stix and you'll see what I mean.

Bits and pieces

SEVERAL stars have gotten into the restaurant/bar business. Look who's next in line—**Ryan Agoncillo**!

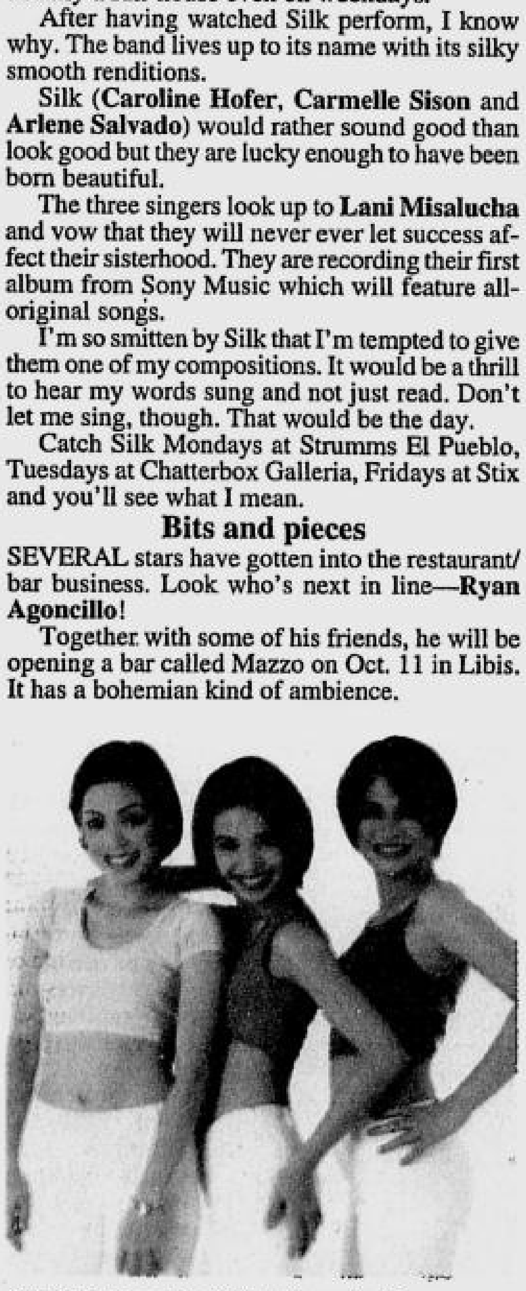
Together with some of his friends, he will be opening a bar called Mazzo on Oct. 11 in Libis. It has a bohemian kind of ambience.

I teased Ryan: "Will it bring out the bohemian in you now that you have split up from your girlfriend?"

He just grinned. "Just come to Mazzo and see for yourself."

Cheers to you my Tali classmate, Ryan! Here's to the wound that never heals, the eggs that never hatch and the dagger that never kills

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

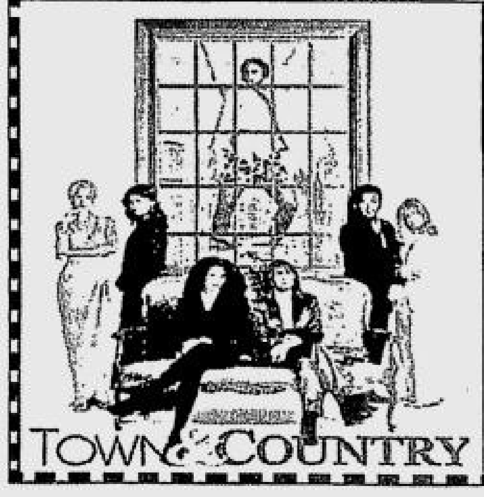


SILK. To record their first album for Sony

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	HEART BREAKERS - P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50	LA VIDA ROSA - R 18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	FAST & FURIOUS - R 18 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

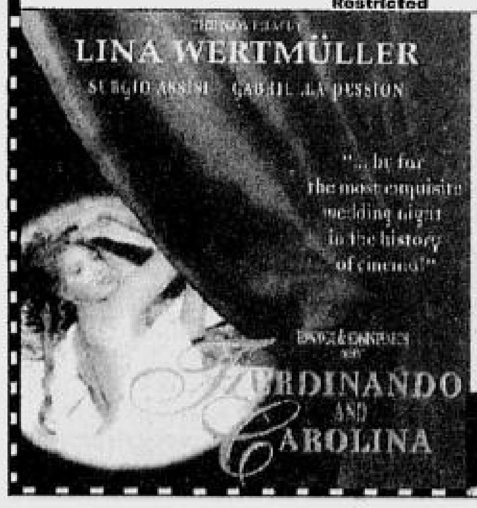


AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS OCT. 3 (Wed.)
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
TOWN & COUNTRY
starring
Warren BEATTY, Diane KEATON
Andie MACDOWELL, Janna ELFMAN
Josh HARTNETT, Natassja KINSKI
Charlton HESTON, Goldie HAWN

After NOTTING HILL, Julia Roberts is back in a new heartwarming romantic comedy set in the glitz & glamor world of showbiz!
OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
JULIA ROBERTS BILLY CRYSTAL CATHERINE ZETA-JONES JOHN CUSACK
sony.com/AmericasSweethearts
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
JULIA ROBERTS
BILLY CRYSTAL
CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
JOHN CUSACK
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
America's Sweethearts
PG 13
October 2, 2001
Tuesday-7:30 p.m.
@ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 5
THIS MAGIC 89.9 PREMIERE IS STRICTLY INVITATIONAL.
OPENS TOMORROW OCT. 3, 2001

SM CINEMA
BE THE FIRST TO WATCH THE SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW OF
MTRCB RATING: R18
Tickets available on
October 1 (Mon)
October 2 (Tue)
NORTH EDSA • MEGAMALL • CENTERPOINT • MANILA • SOUTHMALL
BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • TUTUBAN • GUADALUPE • SUCAT • PAMPANGA



AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
Philippine Premiere
FERDINANDO & CAROLINA
The life and times of Italy's King Ferdinando are played for laughs in this comic historical piece directed by controversial director Lina Wertmuller. On his death bed in the 1820s, King Ferdinando I of Naples tries to escape the ghosts of his bloody kingship by remembering his younger days, when he was allowed to go hunting and have fun, and inventing love games. Then he was obliged to marry Maria Carolina of Austria, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa, in a political marriage: unexpectedly, they became happy lovers, until court power games divided them, and a different historical season arrived.
Language: Italian w/ English sub-titles
WARNING! The film is suitable for adults only due to strong sexual images, pervasive nudity, violence and language.

zed
Is your future going to be a comedy or a drama?
Find out with a Tarot card reading from zed.
Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. ₱2.50 per Tarot reading. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
To find out your tarot reading for today:
1 Type in keyword. Ex. TAROT
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive tarot reading.

MOTOLITE
EXPRESS HATID
843-1111
Available in Metro Manila only

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 2, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ◼ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

SOCOMEC SICON UPS
Optimum protection for your business servers
Sinewave and online UPS
800 VA - 6kVA
Call ICS for a FREE brochure!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

RISING T-BILL YIELDS

BSP sees slight cut in key rates

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

DESPITE the government's call for stable interest rates, the fixed-income market successfully pushed up the yields of short-term Treasury bills in yesterday's auction.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill's rate was up 15.3 basis points to 9.73 percent, while the 6-month debt notes posted a 17.2-basis point increase in yield to 11.939 percent. The rate of the one-year bills was unchanged at 12.669 percent and this was only because the Bureau of Treasury rejected the bids that would have triggered a 36.8-basis point increase.

Traders said the market had no choice but to bid higher for the government's debt instruments to reflect uncertainties about the country's economic growth prospects.

A trader interviewed said the fixed-income market would continue to drive the rates on government borrowings up unless the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would cut its policy rates.

However, BSP's Monetary Board seems to be not so keen on cutting its overnight borrowing and lending rates.

Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the BSP might be able to cut its rate a little if the US Federal Reserve would cut its rates, as anticipated, by as much as 75 basis points in its Tuesday meeting. US economists expect the Fed to cut its rates by a range of 50 to 250 basis points.

If ever, he said, the cut in the BSP's rates would be no more than 25 basis points. The BSP's overnight borrowing rate stands at 9 percent while the lending rate is at 11.25 percent.

"But the Monetary Board does not really see a need to cut interest rates," Buenaventura said adding that a cut in the local rates would be pointless since there was not apparent increase in the demand for loans.

The International Monetary Fund, according to Buenaventura, agrees with the BSP. IMF representative to the Philippines Sean Nolan earlier noted that a rate cut at his point in time would only create "turbulence in the economy."

The fixed income market blamed the BSP for the continued rise in the T-bill rates which, in effect, has been pushing up the cost of government borrowings.

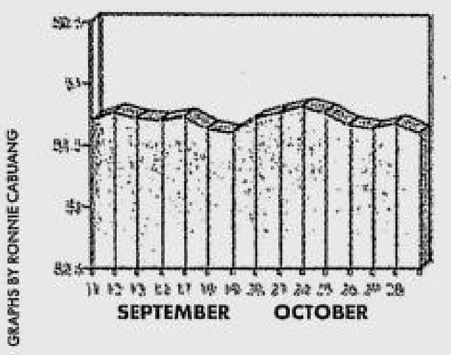
A Treasury official said the government could not simply reject the higher bids yesterday because there was sufficient volume in the 91-day and 182-day auction.

BSP/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

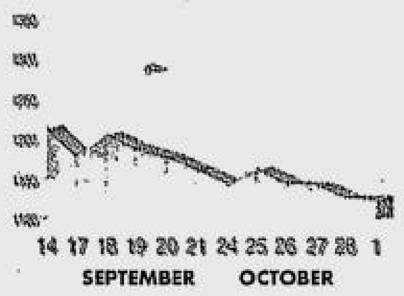
₱ 51.40 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 01 2001

¥ 119.64 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 01 2001

GOLD:$290.50/291.50
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 28, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares hit 3-year low

THE STOCK MARKET yesterday closed at a new three-year low, surrendering early gains, as uncertainty about the economy and concerns over the leadership row at the Philippine Stock Exchange undermined investor sentiment, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index declined 1.57 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1125.06 after losing 14.96 points to 1126.63 Friday.

The broader All Shares Index advanced 18.37 points to 674.68 on gains of Canadian insurers Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life Financial Service. The All Shares Index declined 6.71 points Friday to 656.31.

Manulife rose P55 to P1,310, while Sun Life gained P85 at P1,005.

Loser beat gainers 31 to 26, with 25 issues unchanged.

Among the losers was Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which fell to its lowest level in almost a decade at P470, down P10 from Friday, due to the recent cancellation of its bond issue that was intended to refinance its debts. **AP**

Plan for MRT-3 extension readied

THE GOVERNMENT said it would bid out 5.1-kilometer MRT-3 extension project if the final plan for the project would not be in place by Nov. 1.

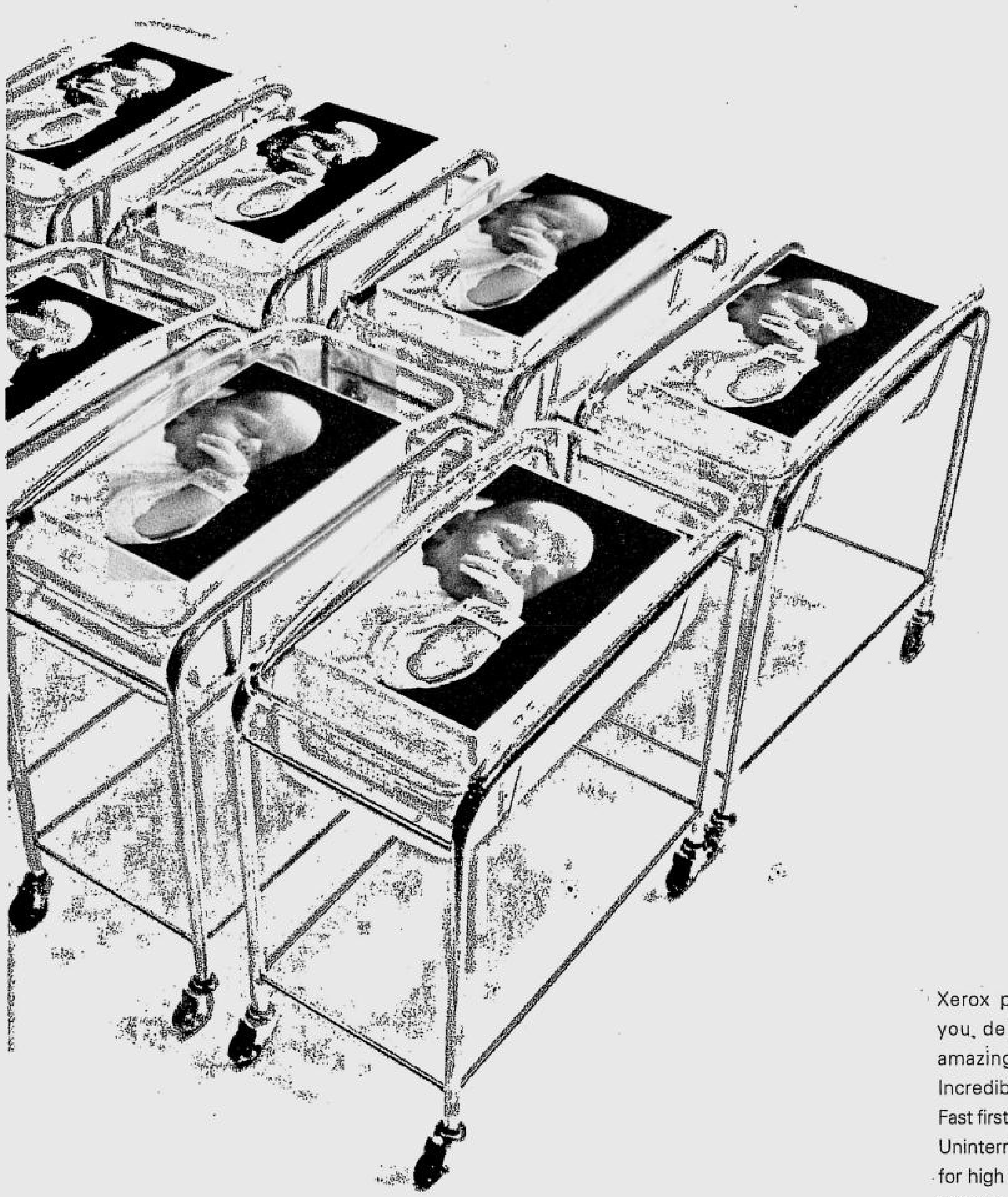
Project proponent Metro Rail Transit Corp. had already submitted to the government its proposal but the details of which have yet to be ironed out by MRTC and the Department of Transportation and Communications.

The DOTC and MRTC are currently negotiating the terms of the draft agreement on the project proposal.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez gave MRTC and DOT up to Oct. 15 to come up with a draft agreement to be submitted to the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordinating Committee for approval. If, by Nov. 1, the MRTC proposal is still not acted upon by the Neda-ICC, the project will be auctioned off.

Xtraordinary productivity.

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN
FUJI XEROX
Official Partner



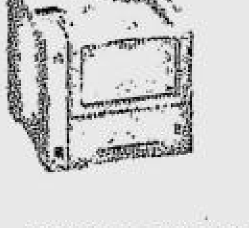
Xerox printers will have you delivering the most amazing results in a jiffy. Incredible printing speeds. Fast first printout time (FPOT). Uninterrupted printing even for high volumes. Seamless integration and connectivity to your existing network. Plus the ability to print, scan and copy simultaneously. Now with extras like web-enabled printing, print management software and a host of features, we bet your productivity will be suitably enhanced. So adopt one now!

Xerox printers. Xpect more.

DocuPrint N2125
- 21ppm laser print speed
- 32MB standard memory
- True 1200 x 1200dpi
- Up to 1,750 sheets input capacity
- True PostScript 3, PCL6 and PCL5e emulation
- Standard 10/100BaseT connectivity

DocuPrint N2825
- 28ppm laser print speed
- 32MB standard memory
- 1200 x 1200dpi
- True PostScript 3, PCL6 and PCL5e emulation
- Total Printer Management software
- Standard 10/100BaseT connectivity

Document Centre 350
- 35ppm print speed
- Duplex printing capability
- 56 sheets/min scan speed
- 3sec fax transmission speed
- Paperless fax delivery
- Compatible with 100Base-Tx



THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

Philippine Fuji Xerox Corporation • ***Head Office***: 19th Floor 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1229 Trunk Line: (63-2) 886-7075 to 94 • ***Nationwide Sales Offices***: **Metro Manila:** Printer Hotline (02) 886-7175 • **North Luzon:** Angeles: (045) 332-1011 • Baguio: (074) 4428261 / 3043238 • Olongapo: (047) 222-6449 La Union: (072) 242-4092 • **South Luzon:** Alabang / Laguna: (02) 809-4519 • Cavite: (046) 438-2995 / 438-6442 • Bicol: (072) 888-3134 / 820-6088 • **Visayas:** Cebu: (032) 254-6792 / 254-6793 • Iloilo: (033) 335-1044 / 508-5991 • Tacloban: (053) 325-6032 / 321-2330 • **Mindanao:** Davao: (082) 234-6714 / 234-9220 • Butuan: (085) 225-3675 • Cagayan de Oro: (0822) 729-9916 / 856-1890 • Ozamis: (088) 521-0492 • Zamboanga: (062) 991-2679 • Cotabato: (064) 431-3358 • General Santos: (083) 553-3507

With Nationwide Full Service Network

Xerox, The Document Company and the stylised X are registered trademarks/trademarks.

Website: www.fujixerox.com.ph

Keep your Cheng up

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WE are going to have a quick look at one wonderful BOT project. It's the so-called Naia Terminal 3. This is a BOT project of a certain company with the weird nickname Piatco.

As you know, the BOT scheme is one living proof of the existence of bright ideas in business. The bright ideas somehow always get the okay of our honest government.

Together, business and government always manage to conspire to mangle the BOT scheme to suit their end. And their end is usually, well, to f..k us!

I already complained about the fee of Piatco for Terminal 3. We, the stupid airport users, have to pay Piatco double the present terminal fee. At least for starters!

Today, every passenger pays P550 as terminal fee. Keep your chin up, because Piatco will charge us $20 each, which is only P1,100 based on the present exchange rate.

But the government cannot stop Piatco from increasing it. The government already assigned to Piatco its power to set the terminal fee. Nice little contract!

* * *

SO what makes Piatco so special, it manages to fool around with the BOT scheme under three administrations already? I think it has something to do with the man behind it all.

He is none other than Jeff Cheng, the *cappo de tutti cappi* of Piatco, a number of whose well-connected "investors" reportedly already encashed their . . . well, 'profits.'

Piatco actually grabbed the Terminal 3 project from the local taipans during the administration of Kuya Eddie. Somebody told the taipans just to keep quiet or else . . . Under the man named Band . . . Wrist Band, Piatco succeeded in getting the contract amended. Moreover, twice, meaning, two times, Piatco added things to it.

For the fourth time, Piatco worked to change the contract under this cute administration of Gloriaetta. Almost, but not quite! Somebody in Naia rejected it.

Even with the rejection, however, this cute administration is indifferent to the criticism against its contract with Piatco. Why? I don't know, just ask Jeff Cheng.

* * *

I HAVE covered the business beat for the past 25 years, but I only heard of this Jeff Cheng when his name arose from the depths of Piatco's hot Terminal 3 project.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the very same guy who beat the taipans, meaning, the biggest of the big Chinese-Filipino businessmen, to the airport project.

It's a multibillion-peso project, mind you, estimated to cost something like $750 million, most of it to be borrowed by Piatco, with "guarantee" by our lovely government.

So do you think Jeff Cheng probably raked it in earlier? All right, he owned a company called Pair Cargo, which operates mainly at the Naia. And that's it!

For the uninitiated, the company turned big-time during the time of Tita Cory. He is said to be close to a member of Kamaganak Inc. Wow, four administrations *na pala*.

At that time, the Bureau of Customs issued a memo, requiring all airlines to use, well, for a fee, Pair Cargo's bonded warehouse. In short, official memo for private gain!

* * *

ANYWAY, my contacts in banking remember the roots of Jeff Cheng as steel. His family owned the biggest local steel company, the Philippine Blooming Mills, or PBM.

For those of you who are young enough to be my girlfriends, *este*, children, PBM became a hot story in 1981. That was the time of another financial crisis.

Companies went bankrupt, leaving the banks with huge bad debts. With public confidence in the banking system shaken, some banks themselves collapsed.

One of those companies was PBM. Word in banking then was, nobody knew where the company's money went. All of a sudden, its coffers were empty.

Those were the times when business feared the acquisitiveness of the Marcoses, their relatives, their friends, and the relatives of their friends.

One of their targets was supposedly PBM. Unfortunately for the banks, by the time the company collapsed, they were left holding the bag. Well, it was also empty!

* * *

RECENTLY, I wrote about the plan of a group called PAREF-Northfield to set up a school in Quezon City, near the upscale subdivision called Greenmeadows.

I got a reaction of a certain "coalition," made up of homeowners association in the area. You see, I was pushing for school. The coalition was against it.

Over lunch, anyway, I asked its president, who happens to be a friend of mine, what it was they did not like about a school. Is a school intrinsically wrong?

No, my friend said, they were not against the school. They were against the way the Quezon City council approved the project. They were even going to the Ombudsman.

Anyway, I was also supposed to meet with a certain Antonio Inton, who I was informed, happened to be a councilor of Quezon City. He did not show up.

* * *

HIS assistant was trying to argue with me about legal things. I could not claim competence regarding the law. To me, such things were always better left to the court.

But my friend said the council did not follow the legal process. The approval of the school was railroaded, in short!

So if the council this time follows the process, will they favor the school? No, they will not. I thought that was an admission that they did not want the school there.

My friend said they want a park in the site instead of a school. So they are not against the school. They just want a park. Which means they were against the school

Of course, I didn't have the heart to ask him which of the two, does he think, is more beneficial to this country. And I wouldn't even ask Secretary Raul Roco.

* * *

BUT the Quezon City council today starts public hearing on the school. Leading the "fight" against the school, but probably not necessarily against "education," is Inton.

It seems to me his mind is made up. He is against the school. Yet he is one of those who is supposed to pass judgment on the soundness of the whole thing. How?

If Inton already went on record, saying he was against the school, how could he render impartial judgment on all the legal mumbo-jumbo against the project.

Like it or not, the school is meeting opposition from certain (but not all, as my friend himself admitted) residents of the area, because they fear it will cause traffic.

Again, let me say my piece—what human activity does not cause traffic? What about all those new restaurants in the area? What about the church nearby?

Do I take it that everything is just fine and dandy as long as it's not a school? And what are they doing about the toxic waste buried in the area? Well, it's not a school!

BSP sees slight cut in key rates

(From page B1)

"It's the usual month end and quarter end phenomena where liquidity is tight," said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza in a text message yesterday. Edeza was attending a hearing in Congress yesterday and had to send a representative to the auction.

"The market is disappointed with the BSP's insistence to keep rates unchanged despite global moves to ease policy rates. We are not insulated from global developments after all," said a trader from a foreign bank.

The higher-than-expected budget deficit as of August also boosted the resolve of the fixed-income market to push the T-bill rates up, as that signaled the government's need for more cash.

The government borrows about P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills and another P3 billion from the sale of treasury bonds.

Discover New Business Ideas
Explore Unlimited Opportunities
Establish Strategic Partnership.........

9th Taiwan Products &
Technology Fair

ORGANIZED BY :

TAIWAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

SPONSORED BY :

Ministry Foreign Affairs, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in the Philippines

MANAGED BY:

EXPOTRADE
Expovision Trade Services, Inc.

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT:
TAI OFFICE:926-96-77 ; 453-13-02
EXPOTRADE:895-57-35 ; 895-23-92

Linking Markets
Linking Nations

On its 9th year, the annual Taiwan exhibits cum investment mission continue to gather thousands of industry leaders and decision-makers as it features new products and technologies in the market; as well as creative business ideas and opportunities.

Over the years, the Taiwan Products and Technology Fair has successfully established joint partnerships, investments, import and export promotions, and strategic tie-ins.

This year the Event will encompass a wide array of service trends, products, and state-of-the-art equipment for manufacturing, trade, servicing, and peripherals for various industries to meet the demands of the new economy.

Don't Miss It!

Rohm infusing ₱25B into RP factories

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ROHM Electronics has committed to pump in a total of P25 billion into its semiconductor factory in the Philippines over the next five years after the Philippine Economic Zone Authority acceded to the Japanese electronic giant's request for tax incentives.

Rohm had threatened to move its existing facilities and prospective investments from Cavite to China if Peza would not give in to its demand for a 5-percent gross income tax incentive.

The Peza board approved Rohm's petition as an exemption to its policy of granting the gross income tax incentive only to new projects. As an expansion project, Rohm would have to pay the standard 35 percent corporate income tax.

Although he did not acknowledge Rohm's supposed threat to pull out, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said it was important for the government to help foreign companies operating in the Philippines because they could shift their investments back to their home countries or other investment areas outside the Philippines.

Roxas said: "This move underscores our desire to maintain an economic environment that lowers the cost of doing business here and encourages the expansion of industries strongly committed to the country's progress and development."

Roxas said the Peza board obtained the clearance from the Department of Finance before approving Rohm's request considering the fiscal perks' impact on government revenues.

Roxas said the tax revenue loss arising from this decision would be more than offset by the multiplier effect of the jobs that Rohm's expansion would create.

The firm's expansion project is projected to generate 2,660 new jobs over the next five years. This would more than double Rohm's workforce to 4,550 in 2005. Rohm's three subsidiaries in the Philippines are projected to increase by four times to P58.4 billion in the next five years.

Rohm had earlier planned to invest over P2 billion this year, which would push its total investment tally to nearly P10 billion in the last two years in its 2.7-hectare manufacturing facility at the People's Technology Complex in Carmona, Cavite.

Rohm produces micro chip capacitors, resistors, large scale integrated circuits, test boxes, and quad flat packages are exported to the US, the UK, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Picop shuts down operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

PICOP Resources Inc., the country's largest integrated manufacturer of wood and paper products, is shutting down its wood processing plant, pulp mill and allied operations by end of this month due to the company's failure to compete with cheap imported products.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Picop spokesperson Vicsmarte Ubalde also cited "regulatory obstacles" as another reason behind the closure of Picop's mill operations.

He said the company had already advised its employees in Surigao del Sur about the closure.

"The reasons cited are the low prices of competing products being imported into the country at dumped prices and the delay in the approval by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the company's annual operating plan, which deprived the company access to its raw materials," Ubalde said.

Ubalde said the closure was expected to affect a total of 8,000 workers involved in Picop's operations—3,000 were direct employees while 5,000 were indirectly employed.

The INQUIRER tried to get further details of this measure and its plans, but Picop officials were unable for comment until press time yesterday.

Listed in 1973, Picop used to be called Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines. It changed its name to Picop Resources in 1995, and subsequently converted itself into a holding company in 1997.

The company is the country's biggest newsprint producer. It later diversified into particle board manufacturing and palm oil plantation.

Picop, which has been incurring losses since 1998, had total assets of around P5.84 billion as against liabilities of P2.79 billion. Its biggest stockholder is Far East Cement Corp.

Analysts said the higher foreign exchange rate regime arising from the Asian currency turmoil that started in 1997 has jacked up the costs of paper milling in the country.

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,700,000	1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,900,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	135,000	125,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	300,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	16,000,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000	700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	900,000	800,000
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	150,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	150,000
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	375,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	240,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000	850,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	250,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	8,000,000	

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY
TRADING MANAGER

LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 CP#0917-8114892

COUNTRY SHARES
As of October 2, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,700,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	800,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	310,000	325,000
CANLUBANG	-	800,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	400,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	240,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	300,000	325,000/400,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	15,500,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,500,000	3,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/850,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (with lot)**	-	400,000/650,000*/2,000,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	240,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	170,000/Please call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	500,000	600,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	100,000	120,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	1,700,000	1,825,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	390,000/900,000*	400,000/950,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	750,000	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	180,000	185,000
WACK WACK	7,000,000	7,500,000

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell and Others
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest and Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

Pls. Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-5381722 or 0917-6140856

DO YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR CUSTOMERS?
Attend the STRATEGIC MARKETING CONFERENCE ON CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
THEME: MARKETING MODELS FOR COST-EFFECTIVE DECISION MAKING
October 4 and 5, 2001 • AIM ACCEED Center
Presented by:
ASSOCIATION OF MARKETING EDUCATORS OF THE PHILIPPINES
(an affiliate of the Philippine Marketing Assn.)
&
MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
Specialist in Marketing and Sales Training

DAY 1 (Oct. 4, 2001)

Session 1
MODELING CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
By: Dr. Eduardo Roberto
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

Session 2
DECISION MODEL FOR OPTIMUM PRODUCT DESIGN
By: Ms. Mercy Abad
President, Trends-MBL

Session 3
SETTING PROFITABLE PRICING THRESHOLD
By: Dr. Antonio Concepcion
Professor, De La Salle Graduate School of Business

DAY 2 (Oct. 5, 2001)

Session 4
PREDICTING CONSUMER PURCHASE BEHAVIOR
By: Mr. Ambrosio Reyes
Director for Operations, A C Nielsen Philippines

Session 5
QUANTIFYING CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CREATIVITY OF AN ADVERTISEMENT
By: Ms. Darrah Estrada
Managing Director, Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines

Session 6
UNDERSTANDING CONSUMERS' IN-STORE SHOPPING BEHAVIOR AND THEIR ROLE IN SALES PROMOTIONS
By: Mr. Raul Esteban
Managing Director, Philippine Survey and Research Center

CONFERENCE INVESTMENT
P5,800 ▶ If registered and paid from September 1-30, 2001
P6,800 ▶ If registered and paid by October 1, onwards (subject to availability of seats)
To register, please, call up Annabelle at 8936459 or 8923261.

BSP issues warning vs investment scams

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday warned the public against falling for investment scams involving fake financial documents.

"These investment instruments are fictitious and absolutely without value, having no known originals, and their issuance is without any legal basis," the central bank said in an advisory.

Among the documents that racketeers are offering are BSP certificates of gold bullion depository stocks and safekeeping receipts, "Ang Bagong Lipunan" gold memorandum receipts, "good" London delivery, certificates of deposits, treasury certificates, Bank of England certificates, gold bullion certificates, certificates of gold ownership, warehouse certificates, and US Federal Reserve notes and bonds.

The BSP advises the public to watch out for investment schemes that promise to double their money. The face value of the documents that are being offered usually amounts to billions of pesos or millions of dollars.

The central bank is also advising the public to watch out for con men who introduce themselves as representatives of cause-oriented foundations. Their scam is to get people to invest in financial papers that they are passing off as contributions to a worthy cause.

The BSP is asking the public to immediately report people who may be behind these scams.

It advises investors to check the authenticity of debt papers being offered to them with its cash department at 5239806 and 5247011.

The cash department earlier warned the public about the proliferation of fake P500 and P1,000 bills.

MWSS set to issue resolution clearing ₱4.21 Maynilad hike

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System is set to issue this week a resolution allowing Maynilad Water Services Inc. to raise its rates by P4.21 per cubic meter, MWSS chair and Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said yesterday.

Datumanong, however, declined to say whether the resolution would resolve Maynilad's bid for an automatic currency exchange rate (Auto-Cera) mechanism was also approved.

"As far as the contents of the (memorandum of cooperation) are concerned, we, at the board, have approved that these be incorporated as amendments to the original concession agreement," Datumanong told the INQUIRER.

This memorandum allowed Maynilad to raise its rates by P4.75 per cubic meter. It was recalled by President Macapagal-Arroyo in June, who wanted the MWSS to review it further.

The MWSS determined that the memorandum represented an amendment to the MWSS concession agreement with Maynilad. It also slashed the increase to P4.21 per cubic meter as it took into account varying inflation figures.

"The MWSS board agreed to the amendment," Datumanong said. "We will sign the resolution this week."

Maynilad has been asking for an increase in its rates to recover foreign exchange-related losses that, it says, have hit P2.7 billion.

The company had been servicing some $800 million worth of debts it absorbed when it won a $7.5-billion concession with Manila Water Co. Inc. to provide water services in Metro Manila. These were debts incurred by the MWSS.

Maynilad's liabilities have ballooned in recent years because of the peso's steep depreciation against the US dollar because of the 1997-1998 Asian currency crisis.

When Maynilad took responsibility for the MWSS' debts in 1997, the peso was trading at 26 to a dollar. It had since dropped to as low as 55, jacking up Maynilad's dollar-denominated debts.

The concession agreement between the MWSS and Maynilad allows Maynilad to recover losses related to the peso's depreciation but over the entire life of the contract, which is 23 years.

Maynilad is fighting to recover its losses in the next two years.

Two firms plan IPO

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

TWO medium-size companies are planning to undertake an initial public offering to each raise some P30 million.

Documents sent to the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that the Tambunting family's TFS Inc., which operates a network of 50 pawnshops, planned to offer 30 million shares with a par value of P1 at P1.05 each.

TFS said it would use the net proceeds from its IPO, estimated at P26.78 million, to expand the loan facilities of its branches and put up 10 new branches up to 2003.

Another company, Jolliville Holdings Corp., the flagship holding firm of the Ting family, plans to offer to the public 30 million new common shares and 64.3 million existing common shares, or a total of 94.3 million shares.

Jolliville expects to use P30.93 million in net proceeds from the offering to finance the operations of Calapan Waterworks System and Development Corp., a 92-percent owned subsidiary of wholly owned Ormina Realty and Development Corp.

COMPETITION IS THE INCENTIVE TO BE BETTER...

Departmental General Ledger
SQL - Windows

Partial List of Clients

GL SQL Windows Users

ATE FREIGHT PHILS., INC.
Ms. Pureza Llorin
Accounting Manager
Tel.# 551-7564 to 66

HOME CREDIT MUTUAL BLDG. AND LOAN ASSOCIATION
Mr. Emer Cometa
Tel.# 842-7869

PHILIPPINE RACING CLUB
Mr. Allan Abesamis
VP - Finance
Tel.# 890-4015 / 897-6489

CACHO CONSTRUCTIONS, INC.
Ms. Evangeline O. Robles
Tel.# 631-9477 to 79

MECO MANNING & CREWING SERVICES
Ms. Edith Rabe, Accountant
Tel.# 526-7892 / 526-7855

TAHANAN MUTUAL BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
Ms. Lana Suarez, Accountant
Tel.# 867-1759 / 894-0602

Other System Users

CITIMOTORS, INC.
Ms. Grace A. Rivera
Accounting Manager
Tel.# 817-5243

FEDERAL EXPRESS
Ms. Edith C. Velasco
Accounting Manager
Tel.# (047) 252-9628 / 252-9561

HIDDEN VALLEY SPRINGS
Ms. Norie Ortiz, Accountant
Tel.# 818-4034 / 840-4112

PACIFIC SEAMEN SERVICES, INC.
Ms. Gilda Aniñon, Accountant
Tel.# 414-2056 / 410-1210

SOLID VIDEO CORP.
Ms. Tita Rayala
Accounting Manager
Tel. #840-4965

TRINITY COLLEGE
Ms. Carmelita Rulloda
Chief Accountant
Tel.# 723-8221

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES
Ms. Marie Selorio
Chief Accountant
Tel.# 729-6144 or 46

FIL-ESTATE GROUP
Ms. Helenita M. Guel
Senior Supervisor
Tel.# 637-0100 local 7073 or 7078

HINATUAN MINING CORP.
Mr. Jose Nacorda, Jr.
VP Finance
Tel.# 888-6582 or 6579 / 812-3714

SLIMMERS WORLD INTERNATIONAL
Ms. Aurora C. Rivera
Finance Manager
Tel. #843-0804 to 05

TOYOTA SHAW, INC.
TOYOTA SHAW (ORTIGAS)
Ms. Myra Tarayao
Tel. #671-9854 / 671-2814 or 17

WARNER HOME VIDEO
Ms. Yvette Cruz
Tel.# 632-1401 to 02

Available Soon!

- Fixed Assets for SQL Windows
- Accounts Receivable for SQL Windows
- Inventory for SQL Windows
- Payroll for SQL Windows

Features

- Allows simultaneous operation of GL Program in several PC terminals such as: transaction data entry, generation of reports, inquiry, master file build-up, and other system's activity for LAN environment.
- Automatic Voucher Writer Module which generate Journal Voucher, Check Voucher and Accounts Payable Voucher.
- Access Security Module which limits access and generates audit trail of user's activities.
- Balance Sheet reports as to monthly, comparative and all months.
- Powerful Income Statement and Cost of Production.
  - Actual vs. Budget vs. Prior Years on a monthly or cumulative basis.
  - Monthly, Quarterly, Date-Range, Comparative or All Months Analysis.
  - With Percentage Analysis.
  - With Tabular Analysis as to Department or Division.
  - Per Department or Consolidated as to Division, Branch or Companywide
- VAT/Expanded Withholding Tax Report. Withholding Tax Form 2307 printing.
- Supports foreign currency conversion during generation of reports.
- Unlimited department (responsibility centers).
- Unlimited subsidiary ledgers for Balance Sheet account and with consolidation.
- User-formatted Balance Sheet (three levels), Income Statement and Cost of Production (two levels).
- Choice of 8 budgeting methods to speed-up preparation.
- Flexible user-defined financial reporting periods which allows 12 or 13 month periods.
- Complete with dropdown tables to ease GL system operation.
- Complete with utilities such as change/consolidate code, recover illegal entries, import utility for consolidation.
- All reports can be saved on most common file formats such as Excel, Lotus 123, HTML, Word, SQL, etc.
- Reports viewer for all saved reports such as: Balance Sheet; Income Statement; Cost of Production; Trial Balance; Schedule of Subsidiary Accounts and Consolidation; General and Subsidiary Ledgers; Transaction Registers; Expense and Cost Distribution and Value Added/Withholding Tax.
- Client-Server
- Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) to commonly used platforms: WindowsNT, Unix, AIX, Linux, etc.

Also Available

- Dept'l. General Ledger System v.6.3
- Simplified Payroll System v.W6.2
- Simplified Payroll System v.6.3
- Accounts Receivable System v.5.0
- Accounts Payable System v.5.0
- Marketplace Manager System v.6.0-Ent. *(Integrated System of Billing and Sales, AR and Warehousing Module)*
- Inventory Management-Usage v.5.0
- Fixed Asset System v.2.0
- Inventory Management & Control v.5.0 *(Integrated System of Inventory, Receivables and Payables)*
- Marketplace Manager System v.6.0-Prof. *(Integrated System of Sales Invoicing, AR and Warehousing Module.)*

SYBASE® Products also available...

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS INT'L., INC.

ASCII
Web Page Address:
http://www.acctgsoft.com

MAIN OFFICE:
Suite 809, Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
☎ (632) 634-4785 / 634-4795 / 634-5449 / 635-7628 / 638-7026
(632) 635-7852
info@acctgsoft.com
Text: (0919) 571-5342

USA BRANCH:
27819 N. Springtree Place
Valencia, CA 91354
☎ (661) 263-1641 / 263-1642
(661) 263-8615
info@acctgsoft.com

Your Partner in Professional Service

shareXCHANGE
YOUR TRUSTWORTHY CLUB SHARES CONSULTANT
OVER 25 YEARS IN COMBINED CLUB SHARES EXPERIENCE! SEC LIC. # 99

Partial List 10/01/2001	ASKED Price	Playing Rights: Please Call	Bid Price
ALABANG "A"	1,620,000	ALABANG "A"	Call now!
BAGUIO CC	750,000	EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
CANLUBANG GC	865,000	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	205,000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	13,000,000
MANILA POLO	3,000,000	MANILA POLO	Call now!
ORCHARD "A"	280,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,820,000	STA. ELENA "B"	Call now!
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	900,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000

TERE TABUENA, LYRA, KARENE, LEIZA, FRANCO / E-mail: [illegible]
809-8233 / 809-8263 / 850-5870-71 / Fax: 809-8074

HAIR

You can do without it

But you'd look better with it

Every time you look in the mirror, you think having a bald head is okay at your age. In fact, your friends have convinced you that you look fine...almost! But if you really know you'd look better and younger with your hair back, then **Svenson International** is the answer to your dilemma.

The **Non-Surgical Hair Integration Method** uses natural hair that looks and feels like your own which blends in perfectly with your remaining hair. It's the ideal, long-term solution to your baldness problems.

Trust the only hair care clinic with official recognition from the Asian Society of Trichology. Call or visit Svenson now and the next time you look in the mirror, you'll see that having a full head of hair can do wonders to your looks.

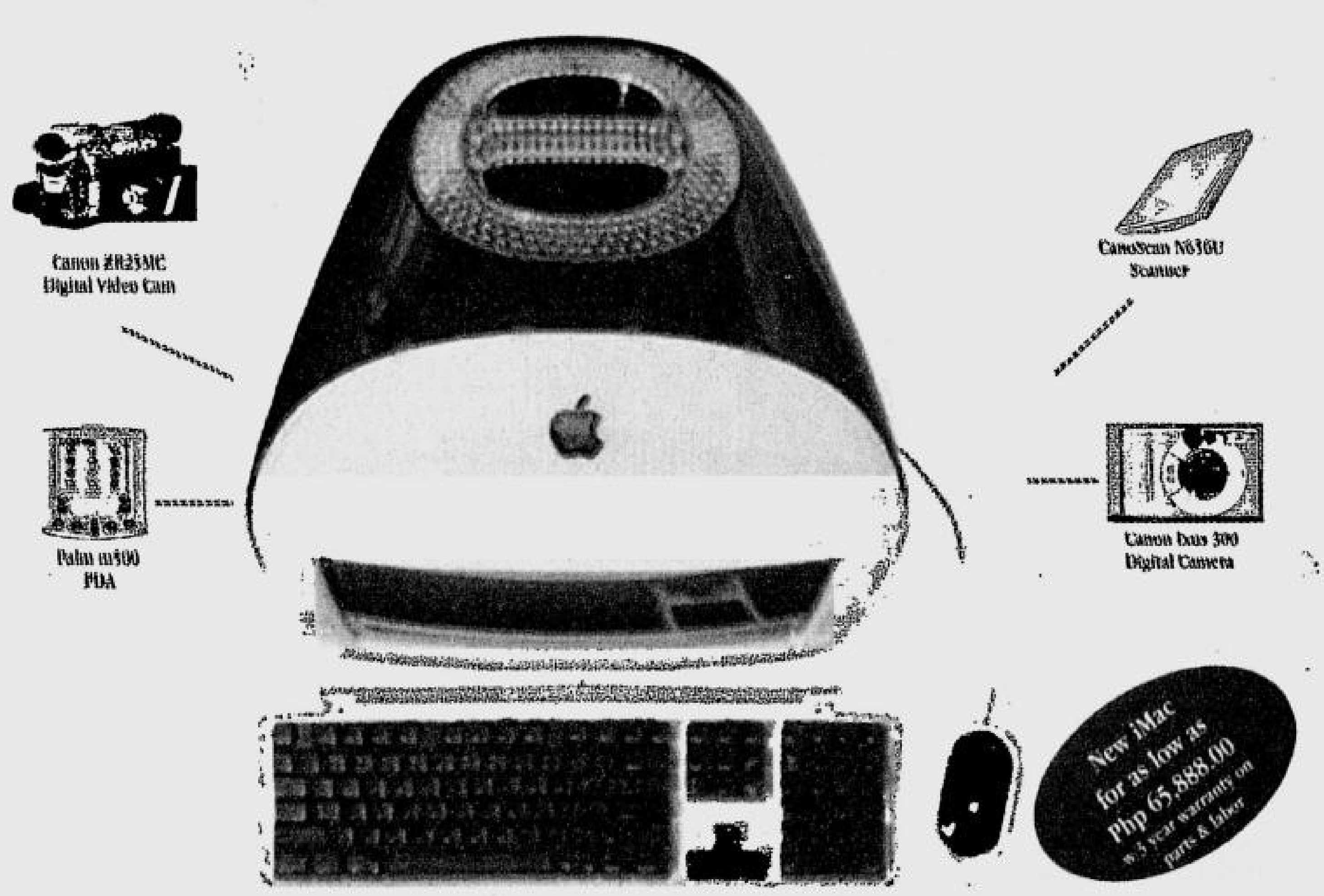
Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

MAKATI	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	CEBU
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue	Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Keppel Centre, Cebu City
817-2260 817-2194	372-6631 372-6632	243-0128 244-8913	842-1389 842-4181	032-2340851 032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Apple

Your digital life starts here. For less..

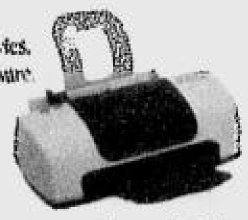


When you buy any Mac

get a ***FREE*** Photoquality Epson Stylus C40UX Inkjet Printer*.

Now's the time to buy your Mac. They're fast, easy to use, and loaded with features. Express yourself by creating your own iMovies. Use iTunes to rip MP3s from your favorite CDs, or burn custom CDs. Enhance your work with productivity and graphics software. And share Windows and Microsoft Office files with anyone.

The benefits add up - just like the savings.



*USB Cable Included.

Save even more when you also buy these great products:

Canon Digital Video Camera ZR25MC, Canon Ixus 300, Canon N650U Scanner, Palm m500.
Buy any one or all of these devices and enjoy ***INCREDIBLE SAVINGS!!!***

Offer good between 10 Sept.2001 and 24 October 2001.

Participating AppleCenters: AppleMac Outpost (Alabang) 807-1571 • Power Mac Center (Megamall) 633-7452
Participating Apple Resellers: Apple-Mac Outpost(Makati) 812-7967 • [illegible] 632-0342 • LMK Commercial (Makati) 852-2534 • Senco Link(Makati) 893-4103 • Silicon Valley(SM City) 927-9831, (SM Megamall) 633-1723, (Park Square 1) 752-7961 • Xavand Solutions(Quezon City) 893-0467 • Yead Marketing(Quezon City) 373-2232 • CBX Corporation (Cebu City) 032-3462383 • Silicon Valley(Cebu City) 032-2340456 • Digital Interface(Davao City) 082-2240172
Apple Authorized Gold Service Center: Diversitec Distributors, Phils.(Metro) 721-2496 • MSI Digiland(Libis) 439-7777 • Power Mac Center (San Juan) 725-2558 • Senco Link Technologies(Makati) 893-4103

EPSON Canon palm

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1425 Series of 2001

FBDC leaves to PSE final word on unified trading floor

By Doris C. Dumlao

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. said yesterday that it would leave it up to the Philippine Stock Exchange to accept its new offer to build a unified trading floor inside the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In a news briefing, FDBC president and chief executive Ricardo Pascua said FBDC was sticking to its commitments and had, in fact, been working with the PSE building committee over the last two-and-a-half years to meet its obligations.

Pascua said ousted PSE president Ramon Garcia's attacks against FBDC chair Manuel Pangilinan were "unfair" and "uncalled for" because negotiations were ongoing to conclude a deal between FBDC and the PSE.

He said FBDC was holding regular meetings with members of the PSE building committee, and that a new agreement was already shaping up when Garcia came out with a strong statement against FBDC.

"It seemed like he (Garcia) was not in the loop," Pascua said.

He said the group was earlier pressured to start building the new PSE headquarters without any agreement yet on the construction design because the local bourse had to place all assets in order to beat the Aug. 8 demutualization deadline set by the Securities Regulation Code.

Pascua also clarified that FBDC's new offer stretched out the project completion but contained the same lot size and location referred in the earlier agreement with the PSE in 1999.

Part of the 1999 agreement was for FBDC to provide free construction design and detailed engineering plans as well as P250 million for the stock exchange structure. It was also agreed upon that the construction would start in 2001 so that the facilities would be completed by 2004.

The new offer was submitted by Pascua to PSE building committee chair Ismael Cruz on Wednesday, the day Garcia was sacked by the PSE board for being too harsh on the FBDC group and Pangilinan.

The proposal—which will delay project completion for up to seven more years but provide a much bigger gross office area—will still have to be approved by the PSE board and ratified by the stockholders of the newly demutualized bourse.

Under the new offer, FBDC agreed to earmark a bigger floor area of 12,000 square meters or 12 times the donated area to the PSE. FBDC pledged to transfer and complete the building within 10 years after a new deal is signed.

FLAWS AND WEAK POINTS

No bite left in money laundering law

By Raul C. Dancel
and Elena R. Torrijos

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

WHAT is wrong with the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001?

Critics say the new law signed last week by President Macapagal-Arroyo to combat money laundering has lost so many teeth during weeks of political horse-trading in Congress that it doesn't have any bite left in it.

One amendment that has them shaking their heads is a provision inserted by some lawmakers that will require regulators to secure a court order before they can investigate accounts they suspect are being used to launder "dirty money."

The anti-money laundering law creates a unit under the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that will have the power to look into questionable transactions. If this unit finds strong evidence, it could ask the courts to freeze a suspect bank account for 15 days. A freeze order will bring simultaneous notice to the depositor, who will have 72 hours to explain why the order should be lifted.

'DIRTY' money stashed in sacks. The government is hoping to stem the flow of money earned from criminal activities with its new law against money laundering, but critics are skeptical about how effective it will be due to some loopholes.

Nipped in the bud

The inter-agency Capital Market Development Council led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had asked Congress to waive this requirement.

The council, which includes members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, Philippine Stock Exchange, Financial Executives of the Philippines, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines and Money Market Association of the Philippines, argued that asking the court to intervene would end an investigation even before it could begin.

The underlying concern is that the courts move so slowly and restraining orders are a dime-a-dozen here that it will be easy to derail any anti-money laundering investigation simply on a technicality. The government could end up wasting precious time and money just to fend off efforts by suspects to delay an investigation into their accounts, according to the CMDC.

Also, once a court order is required, all evidence gathered to pursue an anti-money laundering investigation becomes public records. In such a situation, anyone can get a hold of records that may include the names and account numbers of the persons involved, unduly exposing them to public scrutiny.

Step in wrong direction

Another weak link in the anti-money laundering law is the unit that will implement it.

The version submitted by an inter-agency task force created by the President to draft an anti-money laundering bill sought the creation of the National Anti-Money Laundering Board.

The body was supposed to operate independently from other agencies and would have jurisdiction over companies regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Cooperative Development Authority, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Games and Amusement Board, Department of Tourism, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and the Insurance Commission.

The version approved by Congress and signed by Ms Macapagal decided against creating an independent body and instead opted to place the anti-money laundering unit under the jurisdiction of the central bank.

In a commentary on money laundering, the private think-tank Action for Economic Reforms stressed that "any task force, board or council that will be responsible for implementing the law has to be politically independent and autonomous."

"The body must be well-insulated from the possibility of regulatory capture," it said.

The AEF said placing the anti-money laundering unit under the BSP was a step in the wrong direction. The central bank, it said, had, over the years, "become captive to vested interests, and its governors are not without their own ulterior motives."

Threshold, predicate crimes

Critics were also dismayed over Congress' decision to raise the threshold that would trigger a money laundering investigation, and over the shorter list of "predicate crimes" involved.

The original version sent by Malacañang to lawmakers set a threshold of P500,000. This meant single transactions involving P500,000 and above were expected to set off red flags. Congress considered this threshold as too low, so it raised the amount to P4 million.

Under the new law, regulators may open and investigate single transactions or a series of transactions over a five-day period worth P4 million, especially where there is strong evidence to suspect that the persons or companies behind these transactions are laundering "dirty money." Banks and other financial institutions will then be required to establish and record a client's identity, including the legal existence and organizational structure of a corporate client.

Critics say that with a higher threshold, it will be easier to break down into smaller amounts the accounts being used in money laundering. Yet, if the threshold is too small, they concede, the government may end up being swamped with reports of suspicious transactions that may just paralyze its anti-money laundering operations.

A more immediate concern, however, is the list of crimes—or "predicate offense"—that will be covered by the anti-money laundering law. Congress has trimmed to 14 the crimes, ranging from corruption and drug trafficking to kidnapping and terrorism, which will be covered by the anti-money laundering law.

One particular concern has been the exclusion of tax evasion among these crimes. A person familiar with the matter said a number of Chinese-Filipino businessmen met with some lawmakers and successfully lobbied for the removal of tax evasion from the list of crimes covered by the anti-money laundering law.

The Action for Economic Reforms said the list "should be comprehensive and complete. In other words, it must include not only the obvious sources of dirty money, such as drug trafficking and smuggling, kidnapping and terrorism even, but also those illegal activities like tax evasion, bribery, and even diversion of campaign funds."

The Capital Market Development Council, however, concedes that tax evasion will be best left for the Bureau of Internal Revenue to handle. The BIR has the resources and competence needed to deal with the problem, it says.

One more flaw is the exemption from scrutiny of all deposits and investments made before the law comes into effect.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had warned that there would be a demand for old bank accounts among people who wanted to preserve the secrecy of their deposits. This would create a secondary market for bank accounts, a result in the trading of so-called shell accounts to circumvent the law.

Despite these weak areas, President Macapagal-Arroyo is satisfied with the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001. Besides, she notes, there are other ways to improve on the law. What is important is that a law is now in place that meets the minimum requirements of Western countries trying to deal with money laundering.

Not out of the woods

The Philippines, however, is not out of the woods yet.

The Financial Action Task Force, a money laundering watchdog supported by 28 developed countries, has yet to decide whether the country's anti-money laundering law meets its requirements. Until then, the countermeasures that the FATF is preparing against the Philippines remain, and these are not idle threats.

Experts say the domestic economy will suffer tremendous damage if these countermeasures are set in motion. Trade with the United States and other countries will grind to a halt, while flows of financial aid and foreign investments will slow to a trickle.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines anticipates both trade and non-trade sanctions if the country fails to satisfy the FATF.

An immediate casualty will be the dollar remittances of Filipinos living and working abroad.

Several banks in the United States have already advised the Philippines' biggest lenders that they will no longer handle dollar remittances coming from and going to the Philippines unless they get a full disclosure of information related to these transactions.

Dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers "will be examined," Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice chair Cesar Virata told the INQUIRER. "In other words, it will not depend only on a bank's credit. They will inquire who the remitter is, where his dollars come from. They will be asking questions like: Do you know the affairs of your clients? Do they have a regular business? Can they afford to make these remittances? Do they have the resources to make these investments?"

"What is in doubt is the capacity of the clients to remit," he said.

"If a bank in the Middle East, for example, remits through a US bank, there will be a long list of questions. The individual remittances of overseas Filipino workers may be small, but when you lump them together, they may arouse suspicion that these are being used to move dirty money," he said.

"There will be delays and, in some cases, if you cannot explain, the money is subject to confiscation," Virata warned.

Industry officials warn that restrictions being readied by banks abroad may significantly hamper the flow of dollar remittances to the Philippines. Overseas Filipino workers remit about $6 billion each year. Some $4 billion come from the United States.

No one is sure

Bankers Association of the Philippines executive director Leonilo Coronel points out that Philippine transactions account for a very small proportion of the businesses of banks abroad.

Banks in the United States and other FATF member countries may just decide to cut ties with Philippine banks. Coronel predicts that the attitudes of foreign financial institutions may be: "Why bother scrutinizing for ordinary transactions? Let's just cut the relationship."

Such a move will be catastrophic for overseas Filipino workers, exporters and importers who rely on financial institutions for quick, secure and reliable services. "Trade may be really impaired. All (FATF) countries are our trading partners," Coronel warns. "How can we trade if we can't pay?"

With the new anti-money laundering law, there is hope that these doomsday scenarios may not happen at all. But until the FATF gives its approval, no one is sure.

(To be continued)

Local units of Vickers, DBS complete merger

VICKERS Ballas Securities Philippines Inc. and DBS Securities announced yesterday that the merger of their local stockbrokerages had been completed.

The merged unit will be known as DBS Vickers Ballas Securities Philippines Inc.

The merger came following the Development Bank of Singapore's acquisition of Vickers Ballas Securities Corp.

The two companies have been consolidating their businesses in other Asian markets like Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia and China.

Regional offices in the United Kingdom and the United States will also be relaunched as DBS Vickers Securities.

DBS Vickers Philippines will be headed by Ma. Lourdes Bautista Sison, a 14-year veteran in the stock market.

"The process of merging has been long but thorough, and now in its end. DBS Vickers Securities is well-prepared to establish itself as the Asian securities powerhouse," a company statement said.

The merger is expected to combine Vickers Ballas' and DBS' strengths in research and retail distribution.

DBS Bank vice chair and chief executive Philippe Paillart said: "DBS Vickers Securities offers DBS a strategic thrust toward its goal of offering enhanced products and services for our retail and institutional customers. The combination of the respective strengths of DBS and Vickers Ballas also positions us as one of the most formidable securities [illegible]."

"Going forward, we will focus on maximizing wealth creation opportunities, enhancing securities advice and transaction capabilities for all our retail and institutional customers," he said.

DBS' experience in banking and finance is also expected to enhance DBS Vickers' competitive advantage.

"Our board will bring together a wealth of experience and knowledge of banking and finance in Singapore and the region. Collectively, their astute sense of the Asian banking scene will be critical in identifying and maximizing the potential and value of the opportunities available to DBS Vickers Ballas Securities," he said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, October 1, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49.5	50	413,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24	23.5	23.5	197,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	76.5	77	76.5	77	4,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	194	195	192	193	49,350
Prudential Bank	420	420	420	420	4,710
Philippine National Bank	49.5	50	49.5	50	26,600
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16	15	15	105,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1310	1300	1310	9,700
Sun Life Financial Serv.	995	1010	995	1005	13,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	645	4,320
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	3,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3.3	3	3.3	84,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	475	475	467.5	470	51,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	22,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	24.25	24.5	24.25	24.25	8,900
Manila Electric Co. B	35	36	35	35.5	586,900
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.3	1.3	3,226,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	763,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.42	0.49	0.42	0.49	700,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	124,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	42,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25	25	25	25	1,500
RFM Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	333,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	38.5	38	38.5	42,100
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	50	50	24,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	41,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	111,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	40,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	13,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	0.99	0.99	12,730,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	1,300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.25	24.5	23.25	24.5	106,900
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	60,000
Ionics Inc.	7.3	7.3	7	7.2	71,000
MBF Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	8,953,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	75,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	110,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	60,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0725	0.0725	1,700,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,892,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	50,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23	23.25	23	23.25	31,500
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	630	640	610	610	1,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0012	0.0014	27,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	7	6.5	7	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	5,234,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.155	1,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	1,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.34	1.34	1,120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	190,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	601,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.027	69,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	700,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	825,030	65,964,330.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	123,971,390	130,785,580.00
PRO	11,755,000	28,640,140.00
Mining	75,200,000	2,255,700.00
OIL	5,000,000	16,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	216,751,420	227,661,750.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	451.81	DOWN 2.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,590.83	DOWN 0.13
PRO	453.30	DOWN 4.95
Mining	1,172.39	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.36	DOWN 0.05
All Shares Index	674.68	UP 18.37
Composite	1,125.06	DOWN 1.57

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 31; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 25; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 82; NO. OF TRADES: 1,327

CURRENCIES

Oct. 01, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.098660	1.000000	51.3480
Japan	Yen	0.009195	0.008369	0.4297
United Kingdom	Pound	1.619205	1.473800	75.6767
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140865	0.128215	6.5836
Switzerland	Franc	0.677265	0.616447	31.6533
Canada	Dollar	0.695838	0.633352	32.5214
Singapore	Dollar	0.622470	0.566572	29.0923
Australia	Dollar	0.542521	0.493803	25.3558
Bahrain	Dinar	2.914372	2.652661	136.2088
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292937	0.266631	13.6910
Brunei	Dollar	0.620712	0.564972	29.0102
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000103	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024711	0.022492	1.1549
UAE	Dirham	0.299199	0.272331	13.9837
Korea	Won	0.000846	0.000770	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.910200	46.7369
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.465378	23.8962
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138759	7.1250
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.413031	21.2083
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066147	3.3965
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022563	1.1586
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000470	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153085	7.8606
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00454	0.2331
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00547	0.2809
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022563	1.1586
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.155716	59.3437

DISCLOSURES

INTERPORT Resources Corp. has confirmed that Apo Island, its property in northern Palawan, is up for sale.

* * *

UNION BANK of the Philippines has announced the resignation of Rafael Estrada as director. Bernardino Abes replaced him.

* * *

PICOP Resources Inc. has disclosed the scheduled shutdown of its various operations on Oct. 31. The move is expected to affect 3,000 directly and 5,000 indirectly employed workers involved in wood, pulp mill and allied operations.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. has announced the resignation of Henry Sy, Jr. and Jose Sio as directors of the company. Elected as one of the replacements was Jean Dominique Sejourne.

* * *

UNIWIDE Holdings Inc. is still finalizing its second amended rehabilitation plan that is geared toward making its retail operations more viable and the retirement of its debts to creditors despite the absence of an investor. But the company is still exploring possibilities of tying-up with interested employers. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

US Federal Reserve to slash rates again

WASHINGTON—US Federal Reserve policymakers are set to slash interest rates Tuesday to limit the most devastating economic consequences of the terrorist onslaught, experts said.

It would be the second cut in just 15 days.

"They want to be a strong umbrella in a hail storm," Bank One economist Diane Swonk told AFP.

"It is needed for confidence."

The authorities will cut the target for the benchmark federal funds rate by half a percentage point to 2.50 percent, Swonk and other analysts said, as the economy spins towards recession.

It would be the ninth cut so far in 2001, bringing the key rate down dramatically from 6.50 percent where it started the year.

The policy-making Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) had already sliced rates by half a percentage point September 17 as part of a concerted international attempt to steady the US and global economies.

But as concern about the outlook deepens, the United States is bringing out the rest of its monetary and fiscal arsenal.

US President George W. Bush is drawing up an economic stimulus package to spur the economy and extend relief to the tens of thousands of workers sacked since the hijacking attacks, the White House said.

More than 100,000 job cuts have been announced in the aviation industry alone since the attacks.

The size of the stimulus package is still undetermined.

But Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan advised senators in a closed-door meeting last week to show caution, adding that any package would need to be substantial to have an effect, senators said.

AFP

SEPT. 11 AFTERMATH

World digs in to battle slump

WASHINGTON—Governments are digging in to protect their economies from a feared worldwide recession after the Sept. 11 terrorist onslaught on the United States, analysts said.

As the US slashes interest rates and readies a multibillion-dollar economic stimulus package, overseas authorities are also trying to anticipate the impact.

"The risk of global recession now is becoming a reality, pointing to substantial new monetary easing," said Salomon Smith Barney economist Kermit Schoenholtz.

But the recession may not change the long-term outlook, he said, forecasting a US recovery in 2002 from an expected decline in the second half of this year.

All the Group of Seven powers cut rates on the heels of the Federal Reserve's emergency 50-basis-point easing on Sept. 17. The US authorities are set to cut rates again on Tuesday, analysts say.

The US Congress has also cleared $15 billion in cash and loan guarantees for the aviation industry and $40 billion to rebuild New York and take emergency measures after the attacks.

Bush is already preparing a further stimulus package, the White House said.

Economies around the world are now seeking to shield themselves from the most serious consequences.

"The problem is that the US recovery, as robust as it will be, still won't have the kind of spillover effects into other economies that it would if it was more private-sector driven," said Bank One economist Diane Swonk.

"We are talking about an economy now in the US that is going to be more government dominated in security and in defense, permanently, well semi-permanently."

Overseas economies "are very worried about recession in the US, the spillover of that, and even the subsequent recovery," said Swonk, since the state-sponsored US rebound would have only a limited impact elsewhere.

But governments are taking dramatically different approaches to the economic crisis.

Malaysia's government announced Sept. 25 a 4.3-billion-ringgit ($1.1 billion) stimulus package.

Singapore announced the same day it would unleash spending next month that will be "more substantial" than the 2.2-billion-Singapore-dollar ($1.3 billion) package unveiled in July.

The Indian government said on Sept. 23 that it was drawing up an as-yet undisclosed contingency plan to deal with the fallout.

The Spanish government approved on Friday a wide-ranging plan to give tax breaks in response to the economic uncertainty.

Bulgaria resigned itself to slower economic growth, cutting in half its 2002 economic-growth forecast of 6.5 percent.

But German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder rebuffed Friday demands from business leaders for short-term measures to jolt the economy to life.

"There are lots of incentives for both fiscal and monetary policy makers to do what they can to stop the decline," said Harris Bank economist Paul Ferley.

"They may get to a point where people get concerned about too much stimulus being introduced and . . . it could be sowing a problem for 2002," he added.

"But certainly the banks' policymakers feel that the main focus right now can be on ensuring that growth starts to pick up and they appear to be ready to act using both fiscal and monetary tools."

AFP

Terrorist attacks deepen Japan's boardroom blues

TOKYO—Japanese business confidence sank for the third straight quarter in the three months to September due to the expected impact of the terrorist strikes in the United States on already weak profits.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said the Bank of Japan's quarterly Tankan report released Monday made grim reading for the world's second largest economy.

"The economic situation is anything but good. Rather, it is worsening. We have to manage the economy while keeping that fact in mind," he told a news conference.

The September survey showed the index measuring business sentiment among large manufacturers plunged 17 points to minus 33 from minus 16 in April-June.

The index of large non-manufacturers' confidence slipped to minus 17 from minus 13, the central bank said.

The figures reflected the impact on business sentiment in Japan since the deadly terrorist strikes with 70 percent of the data collected after the Sept. 11 attacks.

A detailed study of Japanese businesses and their plans for the months ahead, the quarterly Tankan survey is the central bank's key source of data for planning.

The indices measure the difference between firms saying economic conditions are favorable and those saying they are not. A negative figure means a majority of firms believe conditions are unfavorable.

"(The drop came as a result of) the general deterioration of the economic environment and shock in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York," said Masaaki Kanno, chief economist at JP Morgan.

AFP

New $3-B fund raised to help Taiwan

TAIPEI—Undaunted by the prolonged economic recession, Taiwan plans to spend about 100 billion Taiwan dollars ($2.9 billion US) in new capital venture funds to upgrade domestic industry, it was reported Sunday.

The money—$30 billion from the government and the rest from the private sector—will be divided into 50 capital venture funds available early October, the island's economic czar was quoted as saying by Sunday's Liberty Times.

"Banks tend to be more reluctant than before in lending money to the newly developed industrial sector in the so-called Knowledge Economy era during which lifecycle of technology and industrial products is short," said Chen Po-chih, chair of the Ecouncil for Economic Planning Development.

"The funds are designed to help the high-tech firms obtain their badly needed loans," he said on the sideline of a seminar Saturday.

There are 191 venture capital companies in Taiwan with a combined capital of $130 billion.

The economy suffered its biggest quarterly fall in 26 years of 2.35 percent year-on-year in the three months to June.

The flagging economy received another body blow after Typhoon Nari devastated northern Taiwan two weeks ago in the worst floods in a century. *AFP*

Apec to narrow digital divide

TOKYO—Labor ministers from the 21-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum vowed Sunday to bridge the digital divide as they wrapped up a two-day meeting in Japan.

"Cooperation and information sharing between economies are critical to bridging the digital divide," said a joint statement issued by the ministers after the talks in Kumamoto, some 800 kilometers (500 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Apec labor ministers agreed to help people respond to job opportunities arising from the new economy, which is based on information tecnology (IT).

"Our discussion made clear the importance of knowledge in the new economy as well as the increasing need for adaptability in the organization of work, in the labor market and in our policies," the statement said.

Japanese Health, Labor and Welfare Minister Chikara Sakaguchi, the host of the meeting, said Apec members agreed on the importance of providing IT training for workers to narrow the digital divide, the gap between industrial and developing countries in economic benefits generated by IT.

"For Apec to grow economically, we must narrow the gap in personnel training," Sakaguchi told a news conference.

Apec was set up in 1989 as an informal talking group for a dozen Asia-Pacific economies but has developed into a powerful engine to drive global and regional free trade.

AFP

MARKETING
HR
FINANCE
THE IBM TotalStorage™ SOLUTIONS HOLD YOUR BUSINESS TOGETHER.
generation (e) business
IBM

As your e-business grows, you're responsible for accessing, storing, managing and protecting more and more data on a growing number of platforms and applications. The IBM TotalStorage™ solutions has a full suite of storage networking, platforms, software and services designed for your business, providing benefits such as asset utilization, availability, as well as lower operating costs and mission-critical capabilities. It is truly the only open, end-to-end networking solution. Perhaps that's why 60 of the Fortune magazine's top 100 companies use them. Find out how IBM ready-to-go storage networking solutions complete with hardware, switches, Tivoli Storage Manager and services can help your business by visiting **www.ibm.com**/storage/ph *or call 995-2426.*

The IBM logo is a registered trademark and the e-business logo is a trademark of International Business Machines Corp. in the U.S. and/or other countries. All trademarks acknowledged. All rights reserved. © Copyright IBM Corporation 2001.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Nike creates corporate responsibility committee

NIKE announced that the board of directors unanimously approved the creation of a corporate responsibility committee during its recent meeting. The new committee will be responsible for reviewing, reporting and making recommendations to the full board of directors regarding the company's business strategy and practices and their alignment with corporate responsibility commitments. The committee will review the company's efforts in the area of labor compliance initiatives, environmental practices, community affairs programs, human resources, diversity issues and philanthropic efforts.

"The board's creation of this committee reaffirms Nike's commitment to corporate responsibility at every level of our business," said Philip H. Knight, chair and CEO. "The key to a sustainable business, from our perspective, is keeping in mind that we are accountable for not only our financial results, but also for the overall footprint we leave behind, both environmental and social."

Dr. Jill Ker Conway, a Nike director and visiting scholar with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's program in Science, Technology and Society, will chair the committee. Conway is also an author and former president of Smith College. Former Nike president, attorney and Nike director Richard K. Donahue, and Dr. A. Michael Spence, former dean of the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, will also serve on the committee.

The committee's responsibilities will include:

- Advising the board of directors about the role of corporate responsibility initiatives in business decisions
- Providing guidance to management regarding environmental and sustainability issues
- Reporting to the board of directors on Nike's labor compliance practices and reviewing reports of the company's monitoring processes
- Reviewing the Nike Foundation and community involvement initiatives
- Reviewing Nike's work with industry groups and non-government organizations
- Making recommendations regarding reporting to shareholders

"Nike believes in continuous improvement. The initiatives we have undertaken in this area are designed to make us better as a company," said Conway. "Our commitment to corporate responsibility has to come from every level of Nike and be a part of every aspect of our business. This committee is the further evolution of Nike's commitment to being a good corporate citizen."

Visit www.nikebiz.com for the most recent information about Nike's corporate responsibility initiatives.

SISTER CLUB AGREEMENT RENEWED

The Rotary Clubs of Chinatown, District 3810 and Rotary Club of Metro Valenzuela, District 3800 renewed their sister club agreement for another year during the Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Metro Valenzuela last Aug. 28 at Quezon City Sports Club. Signing for their respective clubs are president Olive Dysun of RC Chinatown (center) and president Ernie F. Urbano of RC Metro Valenzuela. Witnessing the event are (standing at the back, from left) IPP Regerio Lacay, PP Dave Santos, VP Maricor Malitao and director Linda Chincuanco; seated at extreme left is RI District 3800 Gov. Edison U. Ang and extreme right is PP Mylene Co.

PET, ALUMINUM RECYCLING MOA

A memorandum of agreement among Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. (CCBPI) corporate affairs, Coca-Cola Mission P.E.T. (Pinoy Environment Team), CCBPI Santa Rosa Plants 1 and 2 and the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (Santa Rosa) on the collection and pick-up of used beverage cans and post-consumer PET (Polyethylene Terepthalate) plastic bottles/containers to contribute to the society's efforts to minimize the current solid waste stream was signed at the CCBPI Sta. Rosa plant recently. Shown are (seated, from left) Mike Aclan, plant manager, Santa Rosa 2; Susan Lijaucho, GSP district chair, Sta. Rosa; Tommy Tongson, plant manager, Santa Rosa 1, and Allan Pareja, Mission PET program manager. Standing, from left, are Hubert Adoreno, environmental affairs specialist; Asuncion Abono, GSP district field advisor, Sta. Rosa; Chingbee Lim, vice president, Now Trading Concepts, and Gigi Rivera, pavilion supervisor.

EXPRESS REGALO SCHEME

Equitable PCI Bank recently forged an agreement with JC Pages and Lazaro International Corp. (JCPL) to offer Express Regalo. The tie-up strengthens the bank's commitment to provide an extensive range of services that will suit the growing demands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families and beneficiaries in the Philippines. Through Express Regalo, remitters can conveniently pay for appliances, real estate, and pre-need investment plans purchased through JCPL in any of the bank's Express Padala offices in Italy. The agreement was signed by (seated, from left) Royal Star marketing EVP Dennis Lazaro, JCPL CEO and president Edwin Pages, Equitable PCI Bank SVP for treasury Pedro Florescio III and Richard So, Equitable PCI Bank VP and remittances head. The signing was witnessed by Jong Rosario, JCPL VP for operations Ador Benito, JCPL director Jose Lazaro, Equitable PCI Bank product manager for remittances Von Piad and Equitable PCI Bank project officer for Europe Eric Foronda.

GLOBE OPENS GREENBELT TELECOM CENTER

Globe Telecom, the country's leading digital cellular service provider, recently opened a cellular hotspot, the Greenbelt Telecom Center, at the cinema level of Greenbelt Mall in Makati. The Greenbelt Telecom Center features top accredited cellular dealers, and will help Globe Handyphone expand its growing network of over 3 million subscribers. Shown, from left, are celebrity Bobbie Yan; Leo Sanchez, director for Globe Marketing Services; Mark Amoranto, AVP for Globe Corporate Marketing; Dave Rafael, executive vice president of Ayala Land Inc.; Claire dela Fuente of Greenbelt Telecom Center; Dante Lantin, LTFRB chair; William Uy of Greenbelt Telecom Center; Eric Francisco, director for Globe dealer sales; and VJ Tricia Chiongbian.

PMAP annual HRM confab

OVER 1,00 human resource management (HRM) practitioners, industrial relations experts, business executives and academicians from all over the country are expected to converge at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City from Oct. 10 to 13. The occasion is the 38th National Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), the biggest professional organization in the HRM field.

With the theme, BreaktHRoughs@Convergence, the conference will examine the challenges that are converging at the dawn of the new century and the breakthroughs in HRM that address these challenges. At the same time, the 2001 PMAP NC will be a business conference that will focus on how HRM can positively impact on business and enable superior and rapid implementation of business strategies through people.

The learning agenda for the 2001 PMAP National Conference will focus on the four major converging issues that impact on the HRM profession: people, technology, knowledge, and business challenges. These four issues are changing the way companies and workers interact, and the way businesses are run. Thus, at the 38th National Conference, speakers from leading companies will examine trends that are reshaping today's workplace.

Among the topics to be discussed in the three-and-a-half-day event are: "Talent Development in the New Economy," "Crafting Strategic Responses for a Rapidly Changing Business Environment," "Building and Nurturing a Global Organization," "Becoming an Employer of Choice," "New Motivational Tools for Performance Improvement," "Building a Knowledge-Based Future" and "Keeping Industrial Peace in a Period of Great Change."

For people managers who want to prepare themselves for the challenges of the new century, the PMAP National Conference is the HRM event of the year. For registration details, call the PMAP Secretariat at 726-1581, 726-1532 or e-mail: pmap@pmap.org.ph.

Review set for high school entrance tests

AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center will hold review classes for the upcoming high school entrance test starting Oct. 6. The review is applicable for the entrance exams of high schools such as Ateneo, Poveda, Miriam, Quezon City High School, and UP Integrated School.

The review includes two mock exams, a series of lectures on the different subject areas, review materials, and valuable test taking tips to equip the examinee with the confidence to hurdle the exam.

Ahead has the best and brightest graduates of the top universities as tutors and reviewers. They are all in their 20s and relate very well with their students. Ahead is also the only review center that offers patterned review, which means that the items discussed in review closely matches those that will come out in the exam.

Ahead also conducts review for the UP Law Aptitude Exam, or LAE, and other law school admission tests such as those of UST, San Beda, and Ateneo. Enrolment is ongoing.

For inquiries, Ahead can be reached at any of its offices in Ortigas, Greenhills, or at the head office at 309 Katipunan, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, with tel. nos. 426-0034 to 36 or (0917) 795-8483.

Basic course on writing psychological reports

HUMAN Resource Consultants Inc. (HRCI) will be conducting a "Basic Course on Writing Psychological Reports" on Oct. 8 to 9. This 2-day course is intended for Psychology or Behavioral Science Graduates who need basic input in report-writing. This session will train the participants in analyzing simple psychological test profiles based on selected IQ, aptitude, interest and personality tests.

The workshop will be held at the HRCI Conference Room at Rm. 905, Hanston Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center. For details and other inquiries, call Myra or Clarisse at 633-7078 or 633-7079.

JOLLIBEE HONORED AS ONE OF ASIA'S 20 BEST EMPLOYERS

RP's fastfood leader Jollibee Foods Corp. (JFC) was recently awarded as one of the 20 Best Employers in Asia based on a study conducted by management consultancy and global outsourcing firm Hewitt Associates, The Asian Wall Street Journal and the Far Eastern Economic Review. Results of the study ranked Jollibee in the 16th place overall and 1st in the 10 best employers in the Philippines. The survey is a ranking of the region's top employers covering more than 92,000 employees and 355 companies from 9 countries which include China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Shown in photo are Jollibee executives (from left) Robert Poblete, VP for human resources; Ernesto Tanmantiong, EVP and COO; and Anabelle Carlos, VP for Hong Kong and China operations during the awarding ceremonies held in Hong Kong.

MOBILE CHECK FROM MYEDSAMAIL

Wouldn't it be great to be able to check if you have e-mail whenever and wherever you are? Now you can have the best of both worlds. You can check your Edsamail e-mail accounts through your Globe Handyphone. As part of its suite of advanced mail services under MyEdsamail, Edsamail offers its subscribers the option to check their e-mail. Just submit your Edsamail e-mail address and your Globe cellphone number. So, everytime you want to check your Edsamail e-mail account, just type Edsamail Chk Mail and send to 2333 on your cellphone. Shown during the contract signing between Globe and Edsamail are Rico Camus, Assistant Vice President for Globe Telecom wireless data group; Marco Urera, CEO, Edsamail Holdings and Margot Torres, general manager Edsamail Philippines.

EASTERN GOES HONDA

Honda Cars Kalookan Inc. (HCKI) and RCBC Savings, both YGC companies, were chosen by Eastern Telecoms Inc (Etpi) for their vehicle fleet requirements and bank financing, respectively. Shown during the contract signing are (seated from left) Johnny S. Fetalvero, HCKI general manager, Bing Pachoco, Etpi SVP-finance and CFO, and Arnel Reyel, Etpi CFO. Standing (from left) are Cyril Solidum, HCKI accounting manager; Kim Espiritu, HCKI sales executive; Ester Edralin, Etpi procurement manager, Elen Francisco, RCBC Savings sales manager, and Zoilo dela Cruz, Etpi VP-finance.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH

October 1, 2001

Dear Members of the Philippine Stock Exchange,

Mr. Ramon T. Garcia, former president of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), issued a statement in a press conference he held on September 17, 2001. This statement was published as a full-page advertisement on September 28, 2001, two days after his dismissal as president of the PSE. His statement alleged that Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) reneged on its commitments to the PSE regarding the transfer of land and the development of the PSE building in Bonifacio Global City. Mr. Garcia also maligned the personal integrity, honor, principles, and business ethics of Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, FBDC Chairman.

Mr. Garcia's allegations are simply false and misleading.

FBDC HAS NOT RENEGED ON ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE PSE.

FBDC HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE PSE BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE LAST 2-1/2 YEARS TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE PSE.

IT HAS BEEN FBDC'S PREFERENCE TO RESOLVE THE MATTERS RAISED PUBLICLY BY MR. GARCIA AS CALMLY AND AS PRIVATELY AS IS FEASIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE ARE NOW LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND PUBLICLY TO MR. GARCIA'S ACCUSATIONS.

THESE ARE THE FACTS:

FEBRUARY 9, 1999

PSE and FBDC sign Relocation Agreement. The salient terms of the Relocation Agreement are as follows:

- PSE to relocate its headquarters and trading floor to Lot 9-5 in the Bonifacio Global City.
- FBDC to provide PSE with a 12,000 square meter area for the PSE premises. The size of the PSE building to be constructed on Lot 9-5 would be subject to a total budget of P250 million to be provided by FBDC.
- Title to and ownership of Lot 9-5 shall transfer to the PSE following ten years of continuous use by the PSE from the date of occupancy.
- The Relocation Agreement specifies that both parties "agree to structure the transfer in the most cost-effective and tax-efficient manner mutually beneficial to the Parties". Therefore, the manner by which the land and the building shall be transferred to the PSE still has to be mutually agreed.
- The Relocation Agreement specifies that both parties will "agree on a development program and milestones for the PSE premises." Therefore, the schedule by which construction of the PSE building will start and complete still has to be mutually agreed.

MAY 1999 to OCTOBER 2000

FBDC submits to the PSE Building Committee three separate proposals for the mode of transfer of the PSE premises. The lawyers of the PSE reject all such proposals without offering an alternative cost-effective and tax efficient structure for the transfer of the PSE premises as expressly called for under the Relocation Agreement.

APRIL 23, 2001

PSE Chairman Felipe U. Yap, PSE Building Committee Chairman Ismael R. Cruz and PSE Building Committee Member Robert Coyiuto meet with FBDC Chairman Pangilinan and FBDC Senior Vice President Carlos S. Rufino. The PSE and FBDC representatives agree, in principle, to (i) increase the total floor area of the PSE building to 26,100 square meters instead of the original 12,000 square meters, (ii) value the incremental floor area at P252 Million, thereby freeing FBDC from its commitment to construct the P250 million shell of the PSE building, and (iii) consider relocating the PSE premises to e-Square, the premier PEZA-registered IT Park of Bonifacio Global City, from Lot 9-5.

MAY 28, 2001

At the request of PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz, FBDC Senior Vice President Rufino puts into writing the April 23, 2001 terms in the form of a memorandum addressed to Messrs. Coyiuto and Cruz, to be used by them in conducting consultations with key members of the Building Committee and the Board of Governors of PSE. This memorandum was unsigned in accordance with the advice of Messrs. Coyiuto and Cruz.

JULY 9 TO JULY 31, 2001

The next time FBDC hears about the matter is through a series of disparaging newspaper articles from July 9-31, 2001 claiming that FBDC was reneging on its commitments under the Relocation Agreement.

JULY 11, 2001

PSE Building Committee sends a letter to FBDC demanding that it transmit the deed of donation covering the PSE premises, start construction of the PSE building within ten days, and desist from representing Bonifacio Global City as the PSE's future home, all contrary to the terms of the Relocation Agreement and the principles agreed on April 23, 2001.

JULY 23, 2001

PSE Building Committee's legal counsel sends a letter to FBDC restating the latest demands of the PSE Building Committee.

JULY 27, 2001

FBDC's legal counsel replies to the letter of the PSE Building Committee's legal counsel.

July 31, 2001

PSE Building Committee's legal counsel sends a second letter to FBDC reiterating the earlier demand.

AUGUST 14, 2001

PSE Chairman Yap and PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz meet with Messrs. Pangilinan, Pascua and Rufino and discuss improved terms as follows: (i) PSE premises can remain in Lot 9-5 or at PSE's option, move to e-Square IT Park, (ii) total floor area of the PSE building will still be increased from 12,000 square meters to 26,100 square meters, (iii) PSE will be allowed up to 15 years from the April 23 offer of 7 years to build its headquarters. Having reached consensus, both parties agree to seek the approval of their respective boards.

AUGUST 26, 2001

Messrs. Pangilinan and Rufino meet with Mr. Coyiuto to brief him on the terms discussed and agreed during the August 14, 2001 meeting. Mr. Coyiuto suggests that FBDC prepare an unsigned discussion paper setting out the terms agreed at the August 14, 2001 meeting and to deliver the discussion paper to Mr. Francis Chua, a PSE Governor and a member of the PSE Building Committee. Mr. Pangilinan suggests that copies of the discussion paper be also given to PSE Chairman Yap and PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz.

AUGUST 28, 2001

FBDC Senior Vice President Rufino and FBDC Vice President Henry Yap meet with Messrs. Coyiuto and Chua to deliver the discussion paper as agreed. After the meeting, FBDC delivers copies of the discussion paper to PSE Chairman Yap and PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2001

Despite ongoing discussions between FBDC and the PSE Building Committee, and against the advice of PSE Chairman Yap and PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz, Mr. Garcia, former president of the PSE, holds a press conference alleging that FBDC was reneging on its commitments to the PSE and questioning the personal integrity, honor, principles and business ethics of FBDC Chairman Pangilinan.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

Notwithstanding the unwarranted press conference held by Mr. Garcia, FBDC and the PSE Building Committee continue discussions. Mr. Gerardo O. Lanuza, FBDC board director and PSE member, initiates a meeting between PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz and FBDC President & CEO Pascua, FBDC Senior Vice President Rufino and FBDC Vice President Yap. They reach consensus on the major elements of a further improved plan to be presented formally to the PSE. FBDC was requested to draft and submit this formal proposal to the PSE.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

FBDC formally sends a letter approved by the FBDC Board of Directors to the PSE with the proposed term sheet reflecting the terms agreed upon between PSE Building Committee Chairman Cruz and FBDC representatives during their September 21, 2001 meeting.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

The September 17, 2001 press statement of Ramon T. Garcia, former PSE President, appears as a paid advertisement in major newspapers.

Given these facts, Mr. Garcia, who is also a member of the PSE Building Committee, should be asked why he held the September 17, 2001 press conference at which he issued derogatory remarks against FBDC and its Chairman, notwithstanding the continuing and significant progress in the discussions between the PSE Building Committee and FBDC.

We urge the members of the PSE to be diligent in their quest for the truth on the relocation issue. Furthermore, we urge the members of the PSE to be vigilant in promoting the interest and welfare of the PSE and not allow individuals, who may be acting on the basis of their personal agenda, from hindering the orderly implementation, on terms beneficial to the PSE and its members as a whole, of the PSE's relocation to the Bonifacio Global City.

Very truly yours,

RICARDO S. PASCUA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912 9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

Cosmetic Surgery 50% Discount
Nose Breast Facelift
Hair Transplant Lipo
Eyebag/Slit Ear Repair
Tel.# 723-2223 • 724-8963

Psychiatric Homecare Program •(32)869-6770•

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

Rehab Center for Addict & Alcoholic •(02)420-1429•

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

P400/SHT AUTOCAD DRAFTING P10/M² STRUCTURAL DESIGN P3T LAND SURVEY •7282605•

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

We Build Houses 4178012

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

MASSAGE

ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8511883 100% HDSME

Aldrin•Masseur•704-8757

CAMPUSBOYS 5758150

E-MALE 815-1168

H-H-MS Male 7314018

Male 16 Palanan 7320659

Male Masseur 4101234

MASSAGE FRED 8513462

M/F Home/Hotel 432-0118

•NewMabuhay Msg4215996

Swedish Massage 834-7306

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

REFLEXOLOGY

BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

Edward Reflex 7289285

Manhunt Massage 9162650

Reflex 09196658730/8445117

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

REFLEX CLEOFE 729-8258

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

TUTORIAL LESSONS

EXCELL@8833671/7521756

LA LUZ 5268216/70

Tear Gas Seminar! Call pager 141913098

MISCELLANEOUS

VIP-SERVICE-24HRS 8312373 Romy

HOUSEHOLD

APPLIANCE REPAIR

FROSTLESS/ALL TYPES ACS US TRAINED TECH •3240069•

Ref Aircon Dryer 4530560

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

CLOSE VAN 7320744/7327806

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

Lipat Bahay Tel. 824-1227

•LIPAT•731-6833

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Lowest Ofc.Fee + LowRate Maid Call GSEA 9287096

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039/7118227

GOOD MAIDS 913-3005

★ ANNIVERSARY PROMO ★
Lowest Office Fee
Prov'l & City All Around
Maids Cook Yaya H's Boy
Available Nationwide
Las Pinas: 873-7057 • 872-0265
Cubao: 912-4701 • 913-4235
Zapote: 873-1433 • 873-7055
Munli & Pque: 807-5788 • 853-3505

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 8207068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

MAKATI ZOBEL ROXAS
BNew T'hse 4sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1Garage 0916-3862982

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS WEST
FRONTING XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, 2STY CONC. HSE 6BR/7TB W/MAIDS RM. DRIVERS RM 9CG W/GOOD BUS. 722-1832

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Bingas 6.5M 0919-2045695

LOT

RIZAL

FOREST HILLS 446m² 4121825•09177914366

PROVINCIAL

150-240sqm 15mins Mega DP P80Tx2mons M.A. P10T 747-6986 • 0917-9849455

200-240sqm Along SLEX DP P85Tx3mons M.A. P16T 747-6986 • 0917-9849455

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors
Cavite Light Industrial Park
Ready for Construction
2 years to pay w/o interest
Along Maguyam Road
Carmona, Cavite
Tel. # 635-8108 - Evelyn

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

2BR 1.5M RENT TO OWN 5758367 8903443 8674916

MANILA

Apt nr UST P9.3M 9126833

MANDALUYONG

No Down Payment
Pre-Selling/Ready 30% D.P.
dulcecondo@edsamall.com.ph
0919-3901710 Dulce

PASIG

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

ONE BEATRIZ TOWER

Near Ateneo NCBA St. Lukes
50T Reserve RFO 3y 0%
Jacuzzi Sauna Pool
Dresser Cab Rhood
MOVERS DEV'T & MKTG
4210734, 4211350
(0919) 4076857
Agent Orientation Sat 9-11 AM

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2B/R U-D 3620065 Briones 7Ave

MANDALUYONG

1BR Couple, 1Child, Maid w/Garage P5.5T 532-4446

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 2BR 1TB grge Montevista P7T 681-9583

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

FOR RENT:III Salcedo Place
2BR, Fully Furnished
Ready for Occupancy
Pls.Call: 8945475/8105221

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

QUEZON CITY

SALE/RENT 2-3BR TERMS AFFORDABLE T414-0573

FOR LEASE

EVACOM, PQUE 600SQM FAIRVIEW LOT, REGALADO ST., 400SQM 2429012-13

ROOM & BOARD

Near DLSU/Quirino Ave. Call 523-5465 / 523-8760

WANTED TO BUY

Buying Rolex Watch
Call 6310815;09178411520

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

3-STY SHAW-KPTOLYO VERY NICE LOC ONLY P80TH BIG PARKING 6716870/5325334

Centerpoint Ofc Ortigas Ctr 140m²@200 412-1825

•Medical Plaza 40m²-75m²
•Jollibee Plz ofc 80-150m²
•Prestige Twr 60-1200m²
412-1825•0917-7914366

OFC/COMML SOLO MRT EDSA V-NICE GR CHEAP 6716870

STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610662

Tutuban Divisoria 132 sqm 3 Storey Tel 2429012-13

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97 Civic LXI 345T 6313649

KIA

PREGIO '98 M/T 330T 1st Owner 4330223 • 9257622

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS

MERCEDES

MB100 1998 365T 1stOwner Call 925-7622 • 433-0568

MITSUBISHI

EL94 A1 FlyLded CD Changer Fresh 190 Neg •2815233•

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BNEW PREGIO L300 8254058

CAR VANS 413-5383

Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

FXcheaprates3730584Cathy

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB H-ACE L3 URVAN 825-7135

MB100 Call 643-7397

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

VAN 4280012/09192147778

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

Buying Used Car 3758850

We Buy Cars Spot Cash
712-4680 • 0915-7010510

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

Car Sangla•Spot Cash!
LOWEST % 740-5692/6192

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

FARM TRACTOR 2day sale!
Low Price Kubota*Iseki
T-361-0215•367-2002

For Sale Surplus Engines Generator 150KVA 62.5KVA Air Compressor Farm Tractor Compactor Isuzu Truck Toyota Dyna 9342430

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

SPORTING GOODS

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

WE BUY GOLD HIGHEST PRICE
CALL:8390002
8390004

LOCAL WATER UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION
P.O. Box 034 U.P. Post Office, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-55-11 to 99; 921-56-01 Fax No. (632) 922-34-34
Administator's Direct Line: (02) 929-61-07
LWUA E-mail Address: lwua@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO BID

Bids are hereby invited from LWUA-accredited manufacturers/ suppliers/distributors/dealers for the supply and delivery of various pipes, fittings, electro-mechanical equipment (including installation) and other water supply materials for various LWUA-assisted projects.

Accredited firms will be notified in writing of the schedule of bidding for the fourth quarter of year 2001. Bid documents, including specifications for each bidding, will be available two (2) weeks before the scheduled bid opening at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, LWUA Building, Katipunan Road Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN T. RUIZ**
Chairman, BAC 2

(PDI--Oct. 1 & 2, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

MISCELLANEOUS

ID strap LogoPin 656-8605

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

WANTED CARPET EXPERT
Male, bet. 25 to 45 yrs. old With wide knowledge in quality, designing, natural dyes & services about Persian Carpet. Send resume to: **SIDRA PERSIAN CARPETS, INC.** 4th Level, Bldg. B, Interior Center, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

MALE/FEMALE

•10 URGENT NEEDED OFC• PERSONNEL 9134470 Helen

Adm Staff 9734470 Mitch

ASST. GOLF COURSE SUPT.Graduate in Agricultural course; A minimum two years experience as Foreman or in higher level. Apply immediately with Resum0 and recent 2 x 2 photo at the H R Dept. of "The Country Club Inc." in Terelay, Canlubang, Laguna or call (049)549-1598 look for Marie

CARE GIVER T5280722

Computer Technician
• 0917-8398638 •

OFC. PERSONNEL Call Ivy 7492993 8-6pm; 7157298 12-8pm

•Admin Staff 9134470 Ayna•

OFC STAFF 9134470 Carl

Ofs. Personnel Urgent Call /Txt Edgar 0919-8910034

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
TEACHERS
w/pleasing personality
likes to work w/people
CALL Chai Jack 687-0730

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

15th Corrugated Boards & RSC Box Cost Estimating
Workshop
Tuesday Oct. 9, 2001
Time: 8:00-11:30 A.M. at
MANDARIN HOTEL
MAKATI CITY
Pls. Call or Fax, Email
Tel. 899-4950 • 899-2956
varpack@info.com.ph

AUCTION SALE

MARA Pawnshop Br. of 2202 M. Roxas cor. Pedro Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila **AUCTION SALE on Oct. 10, 2001**, Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, May 12-June 10, 2001. Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
POLICE REGIONAL OFFICE 3
Camp Olivas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine National Police (PNP) invites authorized distributors/dealers to participate for bidding of the Assorted Clothing Supplies for the use of 217 PNP PRO3 Recruits.

The schedule of pre-qualification bid conference and evaluation will be on **October 5, 2001** at exactly 9:00 a.m. at PRO3 Conference Room, Camp Olivas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

PNP PRO3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality of the bids received.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. DOROMAL**
Police Senior Superintendent, DSC
Deputy Regional Director for Operations/ Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MARA Pawnshop I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. Auction Sale on Oct. 10, 2001, Wed. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30, and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively May 12-June 10, 2001.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

MI MARA Pawnshop of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran, P'que M.M. **AUCTION SALE on Oct. 10, 2001**, Wed. at 4:00 in the afternoon respectively, May 12-June 10, 2001. Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CASH FLOW NOW!
8-12T/mo. + Travel 750-8078

DIVISORIA goes to **ALABANG!**
Stalls now for rent
Alabang Zapote Rd. corner Investment Dr. bes. Honda
8079675/7695 09178480612

PROFIT FROM THE INTERNET Rated#1 Internet franchise. Full Training/Support. No experience req. T-1 888 678 7588 phi@worldsites.net

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

SAVE WISELY BE HAPPIER
Earn 60% Interest a year
0917-8349338 (Dave)

Toilet Tank Fittings Wanted Agents Call 631-9839 P150/Set
email santiago_wong@hotmail.com

WEEKLY 4,800 CASH!
Catch the wave today! 800-4226

EARN UNLIMITED INCOME
JEWELLERY ON CONSIGNMENT
VERY EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS
CALL OUR 8390004
HOT LINES: 8390060

NOTICE OF LOSS

Official Receipt Nos. 3000-3050 under the name of LUCAS WELL DRILLING AND WATER SUPPLY at Alabang Muntinlupa.

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Thank you very much.

---

zed™

3 bedroom Bungalow
₱3,000/month
in Malabon

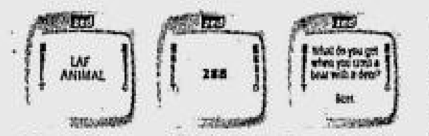
(strong water)

Want another joke?
Then get more with zed...

Enhanced Joke of the Day

Get a hilarious joke on your SMART Gold, SMART Buddy or Talk N' Text cell phone. And now you can choose what kind of joke you want. Just key-in LAF <category> and send to 288. Choose from four categories: ANIMAL, SCHOOL, COMPUTER or LOVE. So if the world's getting too serious, lighten up. And download a joke today.

How to get the Joke of the Day:


LAF ANIMAL
288
What do you get when you cross a bear with a deer?
Beer.

1 Type in LAF <category> Ex. LAF ANIMAL
2 Send to 288.
3 You will receive the Enhanced Joke of the Day

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per Joke of the Day. For keywords of other zed services, type in **KEYS** and send to 288.

www.zed.com

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representative Electoral Tribunal
Electoral Tribunal Building
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

RESOLUTION

The Tribunal Resolved to AMEND Rules 68 and 75 of the 1998 Rules of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal as follows:

Rule 68. Pilot Precincts; Initial Revision. - Any provision of these Rules to the contrary notwithstanding, as soon as the issues in any contest before the Tribunal have been joined, it may direct and require the protestant and counter-protestant to state and designate in writing within a fixed period at most twenty-five (25%) percent of the total precincts involved in the protest or counter-protest, as the case may be, which said party deems as best exemplifying or demonstrating the electoral irregularities or frauds pleaded by him; and the revision of ballots and/or reception of evidence shall begin with such pilot precincts designated. Upon the termination of such initial revision and/or reception of evidence, and based upon what reasonably appears therefrom as affecting or not the officially-proclaimed results of the contested election, the Tribunal may dismiss the protest or counter-protest, as the case may be, or require the party concerned to show cause why the protest or counter-protest should not be dismissed with further proceedings, or direct motu proprio, with justification, the continuation of the revision of ballots in the remaining seventy-five (75%) percent contested precincts.

Rule 75. Entry of Judgment. - The judgment shall be entered or recorded by the Secretary of the Tribunal upon its finality. The date when the judgment becomes final shall be deemed as the date ot its entry although the physical act of entering or recording the judgment is done at a later date. The record shall contain the dispositive part of the judgment and shall be signed by the Secretary of the Tribunal, with a certificate that such judgment has become final and executory.

Promulgated this 13th day of September 2001.

JOSE A. R. MELO
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Chairman

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Member

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice, Supreme Court
Member

DOUGLAS R. A. CAGAS
Representative
First District, Davao del Sur
Member

ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-DUCUT
Representative
Second District, Pampanga
Member

OSCAR S. RODRIGUEZ
Representative
Third District, Pampanga
Member

SALACNIB F. BATERINA
Representative
First District, Ilocos Sur
Member

MAGTANGGOL T. GUNIGUNDO, I
Representative
Second District, Valenzuela City
Member

JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.
Representative
Second District, Laguna
Member

(PDI - Oct. 2, 2001)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"Her children rise up and call her blessed..."
Proverbs 31:28

PRUDENCIA APAO VDA. DE MORTOLA
"Pruding"

of
Jimenez, Misamis Occidental and Cagayan de Oro City

April 1, 1910 - September 29, 2001

Beloved wife of **Emilio Mortola y Roa** (†)
A wonderful Mamang to:
Emilio, Jr. and **Alma Pacana**
Orlando (†) and **Ching Mercado**
Sister **Francis Mary, SPC**
Delsa

A doting Lola to her grandchildren:

Wilcey, Sandy, Ike and **Nancy**
Desiree, Maris, Jessica and **Steve**
Liezl (†), **Chona** and **Jay, Ruhji**

and great grandchildren:

Ynna, Randy, Sean
JP, Nesnes, JD

Pruding was a thoughtful person with sweet and gentle ways - she will be greatly missed by all her relatives and friends.

Her body lies in state at the Mortola residence, J.R. Borja-Aguinaldo Streets, Cagayan de Oro City.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2001, at 7:30 AM at St. Augustine's Metropolitan Cathedral. Interment will follow at Greenhills Memorial Park.

Eduardo Carlos (EC) P. Mañalac, Jr.

joined our Lord and Savior
on September 3, 2001 in Houston, Texas.

His loving parents **Eduardo** and **Maria Teresa**; brothers **Gerardo Paulo (GP)** and **Rafael Gregorio (RG)**; sister-in-law **Gina**; grandmother, aunts and uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends request all who have been part of his life to pray for his eternal happiness.

His remains were laid to rest at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Houston.

A Memorial Mass for **EC** will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 5, 2001 at the Christ the King Mortuary Chapel in Green Meadows.

"I am the resurrection, and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

DELFIN F. LOPEZ, SR.

of Claveria, Cagayan

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ
on September 30, 2001 at the age of 93.

He is sadly missed but lovingly remembered by his family; his wife **EULALIA TANGCO**; children and spouses **MARINA** and **NICANOR (AQUINO)**, **LETICIA** and **JOVITO (CASTILLO)**, **VIRGILIO** and **LOLITA (AQUINO)**, **RUBEN** and **ERLINDA (ESPIRITU)**, **JAIME** and **MAUREEN (TULLY)**, **SALVADOR** and **CYNTHIA (ROSALES)**, **NICANOR** and **EUNICE (CORDOVA)**, **DELFIN JR.** and **MA. DOLORES (GARCIA)**, **EULALIA** and **ENRIQUE** (†) **(ARRASTIA)** and **ISABEL JAVIER**; sister **REMEDIOS VDA. DE RIVERA**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels at 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on Saturday, October 6, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We ask for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

AMBASSADOR RAMON LIZARES NOLAN

(September 5, 1916 – October 1, 2001)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 85.

His loving wife **ANNIE CUENCA NOLAN**; children and grandchildren

Dolly and Bobby Galang
Chico and **Betsy**
Karen
Ramon

Boy Nolan

Rico and Joji Nolan
Carlo and **Dindi**
Christopher
Eric
Bernard

Bibot Nolan

B-Ann and Wel Agregado
Blums
Lala
Ardy

Meli and Francis Olalia
Michael
Mark
Marty

Insong and Lynette Nolan
Lawrence
Timmy
Sarah

Gerry and Grace Nolan
Ian
Gino
Gi-Ann

Anton and Len Nolan
Joel

Sisters-in-law **Conchita** and **Teresing Cuenca**; nephew **Jaime Nolan Moreno** and his family **Sabina** and **Jay**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Landas Center, Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Road corner Pansol, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 4, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sta. Maria della Strada Parish.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the streetchildren of Sta. Maria della Strada will be greatly appreciated.

URBANA M. LAZARO

of Turo, Bocaue, Bulacan

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on September 28, 2001
at the age of 88.

Her loving children **Rogelio** (†) and **Encarnita, Teresita** and **Nazario Sta. Ana, Feliciana** and **Wilfred Hipolito, Marcelino** and **Aileen, Jose, Corazon** and **Willie Leonardo, Eduardo, Editha** and **Lolita**; grandchildren **Regie, Aby** and **Jon, Kristine, Sheryl** and **Ian, Jennifer** and **Elisa, Ryan, Alvin, Allan** and **Leslie** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 3, 2001 at Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park following the 3:00 p.m. Mass at The St. Martin of Tours Parish, Bocaue, Bulacan.

AQUILINO (KITZ) M. LARDIZABAL

who died on September 28, 2001

Body lies in state at St. Paul of the Cross, SSS Village, Marikina. He will be laid to rest on October 3, 2001 at Heaven's Gate, Antipolo City at 9:00 AM.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 locals 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535 (Telefax) 897-8425
CUBAO
912-9008; 912-9009; 912-9010; 912-9011
MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

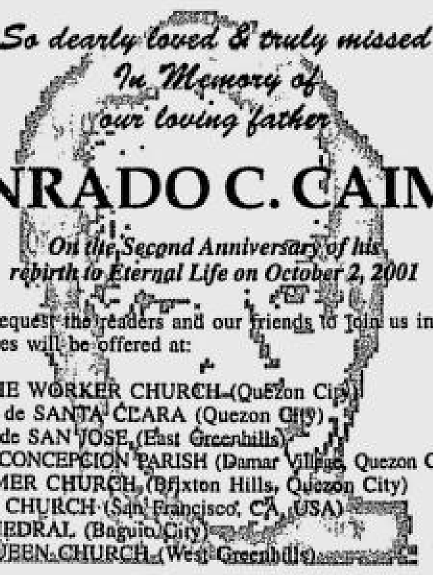
25th Death Anniversary
of

Dr. Marcelo P. Cabato

January 16, 1940 - October 2, 1976

From your wife, **Ruby R. Resurreccion**, and children
Ma. Meliza, Ramoncito and **Raul**;
In laws and grandchildren,
Jose "Butch" Romillo, John, Mariza and **Alfonso Maloune Morales, Jon, Noelle** and **Marcel Joseph "MJ", Melynda Quintong**, and the twins **Rachel** and **Renee**.

Commemorative Masses will be celebrated in Holy Family Church, Bakakeng, Baguio City at 10:00 a.m., Mary Help of Christians National Shrine, Parañaque City at 7:00 a.m. St. Aedan's Church, Jersey City, New Jersey at 12:15 p.m.



So dearly loved & truly missed
In Memory of
our loving father

CONRADO C. CAIMOL

On the Second Anniversary of his rebirth to Eternal Life on October 2, 2001

We his family request the readers and our friends to join us in prayers for his intentions. Masses will be offered at:

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH (Quezon City)	5:00 AM
MONASTERIO de SANTA CLARA (Quezon City)	5:30 AM
SANCTUARIO de SAN JOSE (East Greenhills)	6:15 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPCION PARISH (Damar Village, Quezon City)	6:15 AM
HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH (Brixton Hills, Quezon City)	6:30 AM
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (San Francisco, CA, USA)	8:00 AM
BAGUIO CATHEDRAL (Baguio City)	5:15 PM
MARY THE QUEEN CHURCH (West Greenhills)	6:00 PM

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

LORENZO C. LIM

Who passed away on September 9, 2001

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

REAL ESTATE
CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Senate asked to probe Primelink

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

A GROUP of private investors has asked the Senate to investigate a Mandaluyong City-based real estate firm which allegedly sold them more than P60 million worth of stocks although it was neither a licensed broker nor an authorized dealer of securities.

For his part, Senate President Franklin Drilon referred the complaint against Primelink Properties and Development Corp. to the chamber's committee on trade and commerce.

Drilon's office called on the panel, headed by Sen. Ralph Recto, for "appropriate action" on the complaint against the company.

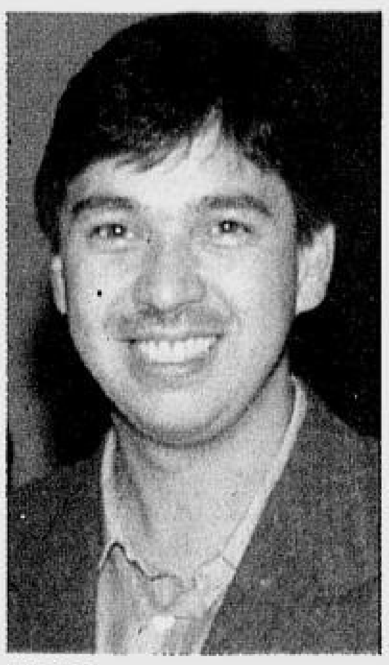
Primelink's "victims" also furnished Senators Joker Arroyo, Renato Cayetano and Ramon Magsaysay, as well as Securities and Exchange Commission chair Lilia Bautista copies of the their complaints.

Cease and desist order

The SEC had earlier issued a permanent cease and desist order (CDO) against Primelink which prevented the company from selling its membership shares to the public.

Primelink presold stocks of the Subic Island Residential Marina and Yacht Club (SIRMYC), supposedly an P800-million project in the six-hectare Pamana Island, located in the middle of Subic Bay in Zambales.

DRILON



RECTO

In a 12-page ruling, the body said Primelink "acted as issuer and seller of securities although it is merely registered as a real estate developer, in violation of Section 28 of the Securities Regulations Code."

The SEC also directed Primelink to "refund any of its investors the total amount of their respective investments, plus legal interests thereof, computed from the date of the contractual agreement" between the investors and the real estate firm.

In the SEC order, the commission also warned that "failure to comply with any of the foregoing directives shall result in the institution of contempt proceedings against (Primelink) officers and administrative proceedings for the revocation of its certificate of registration as well as criminal actions against the persons responsible for violations of the Securities Regulations Code."

Primelink top executives include Ralph Lito Lopez, president and chief executive officer; Conrado Padilla, senior vice president; Jose de Jesus, Josue Tambe, Faiz Safi, Carlos Torres and Paari Vell, directors; and Jimmy Santiago, treasurer.

In a directive, the SEC also ordered Primelink to pay an additional fine of P666,656. The commissioned had earlier fined the erring company P50,000 in April 1997 and P76,500 in July 1998.

Complainants

One of the complainants, Emmanuel Cabusao of Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City, had asked Primelink to refund his investment, amounting to "P280,000 plus 12 percent interest per annum on the B share I bought from you last Oct.30, 1996."

"I demand your immediate disposition of this long-delayed case," Cabusao told Lopez.

Cabusao urged the Senate to look into "this fiasco and enact needed legislation to protect the investing public in similar ventures."

Another complainant, businessman Bayani Fontanilla III, also asked Primelink to pay its "outstanding obligation" which totaled P262,944 "exclusive of interest since April 4, 1997, representing our investment in one B-type membership share in the SIRMYC.

Lawyer Amadeo Ungson, noted that "despite receipt of the said amount to which an official receipt was issued by (Primelink), you failed without justifiable reason to complete the said project, in violation of your contract and the damage and prejudice of my client (Fontanilla)."

"The whole matter became serious when, as the records would reveal, you failed to first secure the needed (SEC) certificate of registration and license to sell stocks before offering or selling the membership shares to the public."

According to Fontanilla, Primelink "has been giving me the runaround. I've been requesting for a refund of my investment."

During visits to the Primelink office, Fontanilla recalled that "first, I was approached by Belinda Lajon, executive assistant to Lopez who told me about the project delay and who also said they were still looking for investors. Next, I was referred to Gilbert Mendoza, an alleged legal officer who told me that only Mr. Ralph Lopez could grant my request for a refund. Then, a certain Lina Bayle phoned me sometime in August and promised that my refund would be granted. But until now, not a single centavo of my investment has been returned to me."

'Victim'

Primelink had claimed it was the "victim" in the real estate case.

Lopez accused another real estate company, Pamana Island Resort Hotel and Marina Club Inc. of being the "culprit" in a failed joint-venture agreement between the two firms and the "guilty party" in the SEC case.

In July 1996, Primelink and Pamana agreed to jointly develop Pamana Island.

When interviewed, Lopez said Pamana "unilaterally and without basis terminated the agreement which Primelink resisted and vehemently objected to. As a consequence, Pamana aborted and prevented the project from being developed to the prejudice and damage investors and Pamana."

"We brought in our money, our reputation, our partners' reputations. But now Pamana is passing the blame to Primelink to cover up the real reason the project was not developed," Lopez told the INQUIRER.

Investors like Cabusao and Fontanilla, meanwhile, insisted they wanted their money back.

"We will not stop until we are refunded of our hard-earned money," Fontanilla said, adding "something must be done by the government to correct this wrong committed by Primelink."

SEC insiders furnished. this reporter over the weekend a list of Primelink's "other victims in the failed Subic island investment project."

Homeless Filipinos families to get 600 habitat-type houses

JUBILEE Homes for the Poor, a joint undertaking of the Philippine Solidarity Fund Foundation, the Council of the Laity of the Philippines and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, and the Habitat for Humanity Philippines, was launched recently at Barbara's Restaurant in Intramuros, Manila.

Jubilee Homes for the Poor aims to build and provide some 600 Habitat-type homes to homeless Filipino families of any faith to commemorate the great Jubilee.

"There are 4.8-million homeless families in the Philippines," said Antonio de los Reyes, president of Breaking the Yoke of Poverty Foundation. "Aside from providing them homes, we believe the poor also needs primary health care and education with emphasis on environmental care training."

Said Philippine Solidarity Fund president Jose Lugay: "We need to empower the poor continuously through good health and a clean environment. The project will not succeed without the people with moral fiber behind this."

It was also noted that Bishop Soc Villegas has a resettlement project in place in Montalban for displaced families in North and South Place. For his part, Rep. James Gordon (first district, Zambales) revealed that the Lower House is also committed in eradicating homelessness in the country.

These homes will be funded by donations from private companies and individuals. The homes may be built on any of the existing Habitat for Humanity Philippines sites nationwide, or collectively on a "Jubilee Village" area.

Jubilee Homes for the Poor has identified three initial sites for the program and community service. They are now arranging with the National Housing Authority to identify more sites for Jubilee Homes in the country. They will formally begin their project with a concert on Friday featuring the Wright Sisters at St. Scholastica's College with guests Babes Saraza Jr. and Greg Zuniega. The sites are 30 homes in Montalban, 60 homes in Las Piñas and 400 homes in GMA Cavite.

Developmental assistance will also be given to selected homeowner families in the way of training in primary health and sanitation, environmental care and sustainable livelihood.

For information, donors can call 527-9028 or 527-5331 or e-mail at www.jubileehomes@wave.com.ph.

The Palms: a visual and sensual treat

QUIETLY elegant, reflecting old Italian architecture, but exuding a natural, calm environment.

This is the description of what The Palms Country Club is designed to be.

When you drive into the club, the graceful curve of the *porte cochere* is enticing. And when you enter the lobby, you immediately see what is in store: a visual feast of the pool and landscaped gardens, the recreational areas, the coffee shop. You say to yourself, "This is a place I want to be in."

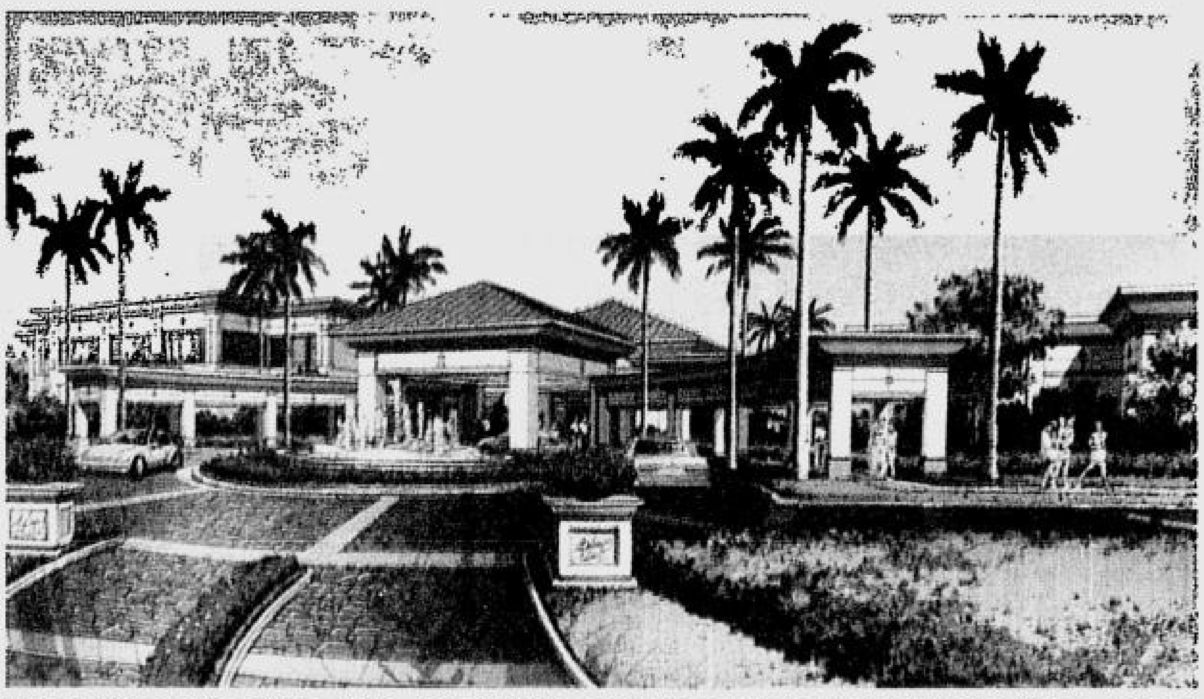
Glimpse of the future

Lou Estrella provides a glimpse of the future masterpiece that is the upcoming Palms Country Club at Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang. A principal of the prestigious Wimberly, Allison, Tong & Goo architectural firm assigned to create another signature address, Lou Estrella beams when he speaks of his firm's other accomplishments. Renowned for having set new standards in hotel and resort architectural design, the WAT & G portfolio includes the Four Seasons Hotel in Bali, Disney's Grand Floridian, The Palace Tower at Caesar's Palace, and many of Hawaii's finest resorts.

"When Joji Gotianun-Yap briefed us on her vision for the project, we went around several facilities in the United Statea to determine exactly what she wanted," Lou recalls.

"Children are an important consideration and so are family oriented activity areas and facilities," adds Lou.

Generous space has been allocated to children's activities, creating the feel of a "children's-club-within-a-club." A children's center, toddlers' pool, a water slide and playgrounds are just what children want for their own recreational activities.



WAT & G'S execution of The Palms Country Club's entry/*porte-cochere* in Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang

Centerpiece

The Palms Country Club's centerpiece is the Bliss Garden Spa—the sanctuary for members of the family who understand the value of total rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit. Since the United States is currently the best showcase for various spa concepts and disciplines, the design of the treatment rooms, health and fitness areas reflects inspirations gathered from numerous ocular inspections of the best models in the United States.

"Joji Yap, Filinvest's executive vice president, stressed her preference to have an elegant structure with soul, not a cold and intimidating glass building," adds Lou.

Parapets shaped to recall Italian design, exterior views complementing the interiors, a lot of shapes and shadows permeate the surroundings by achieving a constant mirage of imagery—all these were carefully studied to achieve visual and sensual harmony.

The team

Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo (better known as WAT & G) is the master planner and architect of The Palms Country Club. WAT & G worked closely throughout the planning stages with Hong Kong's International Leisure Consultants whose credits in the Philippines include the Rockwell Club in Makati. Landscape designers are Peridian International Inc. and ACL Asia. Interior designer Denton Corker & Marshall Group (HK) teamed up with local designer Arlen de Guzman while Lightsouree (HK) planned the lighting design.

The clubhouse structure is due for completion by the end of September. Landscaping, construction of pools and start up of interior finishes will be done in the next nine months in time for the club's soft opening in May 2002.

2 multibillion-peso road projects pushed

CAVITE Gov. Ayong S. Maliksi is pushing for the early start of the construction of two multibillion-peso road projects envisioned to ease traffic in the province as well as hasten its development.

These are the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway extending from Talaba, Bacoor Rosario via Noveleta and the LRT Line 1 Extension Project from Baclaran to Bacoor.

Maliksi presented these projects, both under joint-venture agreements, together with several others in a recent meeting of the high-powered Cavite Council for Economic Development at the Manila Yatch Club. Making up the council are Caviteños who occupy decision-making positions in the national government and in private firms.

Maliksi also asked the council to locate and secure funds for two more road and transportation projects he wants done during his tenure. These are the Cavite Busway System and the Noveleta-Tagaytay City highway.

The 6.5-billion Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway, Maliksi said, will conssits of a four-lane R-1 Expressway extension from Talaba, Bacoor up to the Noveleta-Rosario road, passing along the shoreline of Bacoor up to the Island Cove in Binakayan, a distance of 9.54 kilometers.

Awaiting final approval of the Toll Regulatory Board, the construction of the project starts with the asphalt upgrading of the north bound lane of the existing R-1 possibly in October.

On the other hand, the $620-million LRT Line 1 Extension Project involves the design and construction, in a joint venture with a foreign firm, of a civil and electro-mechanila structures and associated components for a 12 km, full-elevated, double-track carriageway from Baclaran to Bacoor.

To be constructed at no cost to the government, the LRT extension project will have 10 stations over Redemptorist Road, MIA Road, Asia World, Ninoy Aquino Highway, Dr. Santos Avenue, Manuyo Uno, Las Piñas, Zapote, Talaba and finally, Niyog, also in Bacoor.

To support the Manila-Cavite expressway and LRT Line 1 extensions. Which Maliksi said would not be enough to completely decongest traffic along Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, the governor asked the CCEC to make the construction of the Noveleta-Tagaytay City highway and a busway system possible.

WORLD-CLASS PARTNERSHIP

Snap-on Tools USA appointed PowerAsia Inc. as the master distributor of the foreign company in the Philippines. Jose Antonio Banson, chair and CEO of PowerAsia, accepts the token of distributorship from Jay Schultz, managing director of Snap-On Asia Pacific.

Diamond Head technology experts visit Manila

DIAMOND Head Homes recently welcomed the arrival of its foreign associates—Wallace Vanhoy, an expert on the Studmeister, and Bert R. De la Cruz, a general building, electrical and stucco contractor by profession. They are in the country to reveal the techniques involved in the Diamond Head Homes steel-framed housing system.

The steel frames, studs and K-Lath products have been shipped to Manila through the efforts of Darrell M. Sabihon, president and chief executive officer of Diamond Head Global Corp., with the manufacturers of said US products.

The said frames and studs are produced by the Studmeister portable rollformer, a remarkably efficient machine. Through its Frame CAD software programming, the elimination of waste materials and clean-up labor is made possible. Vanhoy will show the easy way of installing the frames.

Diamond Head Homes uses for its wall panel system the K-Lath product. De la Cruz will demonstrate the procedure behind every great plaster finish. The end result of such subsystem is more solid than an ordinary hollow block. The speed in putting up the wall panel system generates great savings, thus lowering construction costs.

Creba co-sponsors shelter technology fair at Midtown

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) has thrown its support as co-sponsor, behind the Housing Technology Fair to be held on Oct. 25-28 at the Midtown Hotel in Ermita, Manila, to help promote the use of new and innovative housing technologies for decent and affordable housing.

Charlie V. Gorayeb, Creba national president, said the housing exposition is also jointly co-sponsored by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the Private Consultative Council for Shelter and the Subdivision and Housing Development Association.

The fair comes after the 2001 Creba-HUDCC National Convention on Oct. 18-20 in Bacolod City, and before the Housing Summit to be convened by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 30-31 in Metro Manila. The President has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the Creba-HUDCC convention.

Advocacy

Gorayeb said the fair is an exposition of the products and services of the real estate sector, which is consistent with Creba's advocacy for decent and affordable housing. The event will highlight new and innovative technologies for housing accessible to the low-income groups.

He called on Creba members and affiliates to avail themselves of this opportunity to join a housing fair, both as sponsors and exhibitors, where they can sell their housing inventories and promote their other housing-related products and services through displays and product presentations.

Matching

Gorayeb also urged those shopping for a house-and-lot package to visit the fair for the house-beneficiary matching to be conducted by government housing agencies for their foreclosed and acquired residential units being made available through rent-to-own schemes, outright purchases or through long-term financing.

These agencies include the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund), Home Guaranty Corp. and the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

Creba has been collaborating with the HUDCC through technical workshops to validate the issues to be presented at the Housing Summit.

The CREBA-HUDCC National Convention is viewed as the prelude to the Housing Summit.

The convention will feature a developers forum with leading builders and private and public housing developers, and workshops on housing targets and production, regulation, licensing and land conversion. Heads of government housing and related agencies, including the National Housing Authority, Pag-Ibig Fund, Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, Home Guaranty Corp., Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, and the Departments of Agrarian Reform and Environment and Natural Resources.

JDV moves to raise ₱270-B housing fund

BY VICENTE B. FOZ

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has unveiled two legislative proposals to raise some P270 billion from nonperforming assets of commercial banks to finance low-cost housing projects and thus drastically reduce the country's backlog of 4.5-million housing units.

De Venecia spoke before the Creba's 9th monthly business meeting at Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City last Thursday. Creba national president Charlie V. Gorayeb led the large audience of industry leaders and professionals in welcoming the proposals. He called De Venecia "the country's true champion of housing."

DE VENECIA, left, responds to questions from the floor during the Creba monthly business meeting. With him are, from left, Representative Zialcita, Gorayeb and Purita R. Soliven, VP for internal affairs and overall chair, Creba-HUDCC national convention.

Securitization program

The Speaker informed Creba that he has sent to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the proposal for a large-scale securitization program to raise the large housing fund and a counterpart bill creating a special purpose vehicle to buy up to P270 billion worth of nonperforming assets of the banking system.

The banks, he said, would, in turn, make the proceeds from the sale of foreclosed mortgages available for low-cost housing projects.

De Venecia told Creba: "Creativity and political will on the part of the national leadership is important to fully implement the country's economic development programs to see the light of day. We can do it."

Consolidation

De Venecia also supported the proposed Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act introduced in the House by Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, vice chair of the House committee on housing, which consolidated the major components of Creba's main advocacy for addressing the housing problem on four fronts—finance, production, regulation and administrative structures.

Creba seeks, among others, the creation of a centralized homebuyer financing program and a Department of Housing and Urban Development to carry out the integrated housing program.

Massive mobilization

De Venecia said the massive mobilization of the country's untapped internal assets would finance not only housing development, but also President Macapagal's medium- and long-term socio-economic development programs.

Securitization or the issuance and sale of competitive bonds secured by the banking system's idle assets, the Speaker stressed, could raise some $25 billion to $50 billion for the government. An initial $1 billion could be raised by securitizing part of the $10 billion government share due from the Malampaya gas flow in the Palawan offshore which will begin operating in the next few weeks.

Counterpart funds

This would enable the government to raise an initial $1 billion of the $2.5 billion needed by the country as counterpart funds so it could avail of the $10 billion Official Development Assistance funds committed by donor countries like Japan and other countries, but which the government has so far failed to tap for more than a decade. The ODA is financing assistance at a very concessional term of 30 year's payment at less than one percent interest and a 10-year grace period on the principal.

To complete the counterpart fund requirements, De Venecia also identified the P70 billion or about $1.3 billion coconut levy funds and the $650-million Marcos wealth now held in escrow with the Philippine National Bank.

New marketing strategy enlivens property sector

EARTH+STYLE Corp., a cosmopolitan lifestyle property developer, took on a more competitive marketing stance via its introduction of the Asset Security Advantage, a program that will provide substantial discounts and flexible payment terms for all buyers.

According to ESC president and chief executive officer Victor H. Manarang, the ASA is buyer-oriented. It cushions buyers against any economic pressures that could otherwise constrain them from owning a house and lot.

The ESC also launched another ongoing sales promotions program "She Bang!" While "She-Bang!" is seller-oriented in the sense that ESC sales agents can look forward to winning luxury vehicles, Asian trips and high-end home appliances on top of cash bonuses,

Manarang also revealed that the various incentive packages available under the ASA program took into consideration the results provided by extensive researches that the ESC periodically undertakes. "These research studies have been giving us good indicators of buyer's specific requirements depending on his ability to follow certain payment schemes," Manarang explained.

As an independent land developing firm, the ESC has four fully developed projects based in Cavite. These are Parkplace, Grand Parkplace, Pacific Parkplace and Villaggio Ignatius. All are strategically near commercial and trading centers. Resort-like amenities, which include a well-appointed clubhouse, distinguish the ESC projects from other villages in the area.

The ESC extensive land banking efforts in the past also paved the way for the development of an entirely new township, called Jubilation, located in New Biñan, Laguna. The development of Jubilation involves putting together the best of Asian architecture and landscape.

URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE
will conduct the following seminars
Nov. 14, 2001, 1:30 to 7:00 PM
REAL ESTATE MATHEMATICS
A 5-hour lecture covering interest formula & its application to various real estate problems. How to use table of values, calculators & computers in graduated periodic payments, return analysis, Net Present Value, Internal Rate of Return & External Rate of Return methods and manymore
November 21 & 28, 2001, 1:30 to 6:00 PM
INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE
A 2-day lecture on WHAT TO LEARN and PRECAUTIONS BEFORE INVESTING and INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TECHNIQUES.
Nov. 24, 25, Dec.1 & 2, 2001, 1:30 to 6:00 PM
6th REAL ESTATE LECTURE SERIES
A 16-hour lecture on Real Estate Finance, Investment Analysis, Property Appraisal, Property Development, Property Management, Real Estate Taxation & updates, Joint Venture & Syndication for Real Estate Projects and Elements of a Successful Realty Office.
December 5, 2001, 1:30 to 7:00 PM
A COMPLETE COURSE ON REALTY INSTALLMENT SALES
Legal, documentation, financial and taxation aspects of installment sales.
Venue is limited to 30 participants. Advance registration only.
Call 681-0928(AM only) or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph

Your Total Solution to any Waterproofing Problem
FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements
SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures
CERAMICOAT
Elastomeric Insulating Paint
For insulating and waterproofing of all types of roofings, walls and floors.
from the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc
13th JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-05-31 up to 32; 252-05-49 up to 51; 252-05-59; Fax No.: 252-05-50
Website: www.campbridge.com
Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave. Dagupan Tel No.: (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#82 Plaridel St., Cebu City Tel No : (032) 254-1511 Fax No : (032) 52426
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Property firm backs country-living lifestyle

MORE business executives prefer to live outside the busy sphere of commercial and industrial centers, and are now opting to reside in a countryside environment.

Developer Mario A. Oreta, president of the Malaysian-backed Mancon-CBDC (Constant Builders and Development Corp.), said the emerging country-living lifestyle is the result of greater health consciousness and more holistic living among business executives.

"The tension of managing businesses and industries take their toll on businessmen and their families," Oreta said. "That is why they are now looking for alternatives to help balance their lives," he added.

Healthy environment

Oreta said business executives have also begun to realize the impact of healthy environment to their physical and mental productivity. He said they could manage their enterprises better in a relaxed atmosphere that is close to nature;

Condominium living was the big craze for the upper-echelon markets in the '80s and '90s, Oreta observed. The condominium lifestyle, however, tend to sustain the pressure that an executive acquires at the workplace. Oreta said the preference is now shifting to country living as the environment becomes a major factor in property investment selection.

Clamor

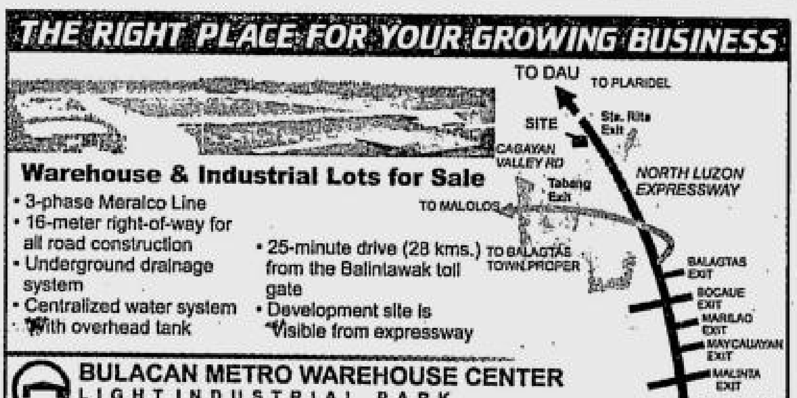
"I believe the clamor by the upper B to A markets is for properties that will combine the luxury of a green and healthy environment and the proximity of the central business districts," Oreta said.

Oreta added that Mancon-CBDC is set to meet this market demand.

"We have closely followed the evolution of the preferences of this market," he said. "We are now matching our development initiatives with what this market wants," he added.

Mancon-CBDC is backed by the Malaysian property conglomerate Mancon Berhad based in Kuala Lumpur.

MARKETING DRIVE
Housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is aggressively promoting its ongoing township and residential community developments by reaching out to target prospects in some of the most frequent dining and shopping destinations in and around Metro Manila. Empire East's sales booth at The Enterprise's Food Park in Makati was manned by real estate consultants, who briefed interested individuals on the firm's latest residential projects. The briefing was made possible through architectural drawings, scale models and audiovisual presentations.


THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOUR GROWING BUSINESS
Warehouse & Industrial Lots for Sale
- 3-phase Meralco Line
- 16-meter right-of-way for all road construction
- Underground drainage system
- Centralized water system with overhead tank
- 25-minute drive (28 kms.) from the Balintawak toll gate
- Development site is visible from expressway
BULACAN METRO WAREHOUSE CENTER
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK
346 CAGAYAN VALLEY ROAD, STA. RITA, GUIGUINTO, BULACAN
TEL. NO. (044) 6901740 • FAX NO. (044) 6901909 • email: eglin@fastmail.i-next.net
DEVELOPED BY: EGLIN REALTY CORP. • Tel. Nos. (02) 253-0403, 253-1198
TO DAU
TO PLARIDEL
SITE
Sta. Rita Exit
CAGAYAN VALLEY RD
Tabang Exit
NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
TO MALOLOS
TO BALAGTAS TOWN PROPER
BALAGTAS EXIT
BOCAUE EXIT
MARILAO EXIT
MAYCAUAYAN EXIT
MALINTA EXIT
BALINTAWAK TOLL GATE
MANILA

ATTENTION
FURNITURE MAKERS, CONTRACTORS, DESIGNERS, DEVELOPERS and HOUSEWIVES
Don't just ask for any laminate... ask for
MELAMINE-LAMINATED BOARD
for your TABLES, CABINETS, DOORS & WALLS
MELAMINE BOARDS
NOW MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES
(USING GERMAN TECHNOLOGY)
Why settle for just any laminate when you can have something much, much better?
NO MORE
- CIGARETTE BURNS
- PEEL-OFF ON EDGES
- SCRATCHES & STAINS
- PAINTING, SANDING, & VARNISHING
- Available in solid colors and woodgrain designs.
- Complementing edge banding materials available.
- *Can be laminated on particleboard, MDF and hardboard According to your size specification.*
Manufactured and distributed by
WORLD CLASS PANELS MARKETING, INC.
22-D, Scout Albano Street, Quezon City
Tels. 4110091 to 92, 3711742 • Telefax 3742962

Italian Tiles
AS MUCH AS 75% OFF*

SIZE	PRICE/PC.	PRICE/SQM
30cm x 30cm (12" x 12")	₱ 25.00	₱ 277.75
33cm x 33cm (13" x 13")	₱ 36.00	₱ 330.48

CERAMIC PLAZA
THE MOST TILES AT THE BEST PRICES
*IN THESE 4 BRANCHES ONLY
MUÑOZ BRANCH
1207 EDSA, MUÑOZ, QUEZON CITY
Tel. 372-4687 • 372-1593 • 372-9010 • 372-9011
E. RODRIGUEZ BRANCH
113 E. RODRIGUEZ AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
TEL. 732-1906
MAKATI BRANCH
2250 Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati City
Tel. 893-1654
ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS BRANCH
In front of SM Southmall
Lot 7, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Brgy. Almanza, LPC
Tels. 801-7152 • 800-7131, 32 & 34
Visit us today!
METRO MANILA BRANCHES
MANILA 1662 J. Abad Santos Ave. 253-2827/253-0590
QUEZON AVENUE 27-29 HIZON BLDG. 731-1360
BUCAT 6208 Dr. A Santos Ave. 829-9417
MARCOS HI-WAY J & P Bldg., Masinag, Marcos Highway, Antipolo, Rizal 678-0692
MUNTINLUPA Christ The King Bldg., Tunasan, Muntinlupa 861-1775
KARUHATAN UNIT 2 #213 McArthur Hi-way 291-5271
EXTENDED STORE HOURS! 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM DAILY.
ALMANZA, LP (In front of SM Southmall) Lot 7, Alabang-Zapote Rd., Bgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City Tels. 801-7152 • 800-7131 • 800-7132 • 800-7134
PASAY 811 EDSA Tels. 833-5510 • 834-7537
E. RODRIGUEZ 113 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City Tel. 732-1906
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA Tels. 372-4687 • 372-1593 • 372-9010 • 372-9011
MAKATI 2250 Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati City Tel. 893-1654
TAYTAY Manila East Road, Kaytikling, Taytay, Rizal Tels 284-2208 • 655-3447
PROVINCIAL BRANCHES
CARMONA Bo. Maduya, National Highway, Carmona, Cavite (046)430-3327
MEYCAUAYAN JP Hermoso Bldg., McArthur Hi-way, Bo. Banga (044)840-0348
GUIGUINTO UNIT CDR Cundangan Bldg., Tuktukan (044)690-0905
MALOLOS King Willard Comm'l Cmplx. Km. 44 McArthur Hi-way, Longos (044)662-1859
BALIUAG DRT Hi-way, (044)673-3595 (044)673-0448
ANGELES Sta. Ester Bldg. 933 Henson St. (045)887-4811
TARLAC San Sebastian, McArthur Hi-way (045)800-0212
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 37 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046)416-3743
OPEN MONDAYS THRU SUNDAYS 8:30 AM TO 5:30 PM
Also Available EUROTILES

COBY'S DESIGN CENTER

One-stop shop for style, elegance

FOR THOSE searching for more than the usual fare in styling their homes, Coby's Design Center promises to be the perfect place to go, with its wide selection of kitchen and bathroom furnishings.

Located at the 4th level of the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, Coby's was established in 1996 as the architectural hardware outlet geared toward a more sophisticated market. It is a subsidiary of Cobankiat Hardware Inc., one of the largest hardware companies in the Philippines today.

"We've been in the hardware business for years and from our experience, we've observed that most of our high-end clientele have very distinct preferences with regard to fixtures which are not normally found in local stores," says general manager Aida Cobankiat.

She adds that Coby's makes such stylish though not necessarily expensive products available in the local market, including the European-styled faucet line, Delta [illegible] ...ping lines and sleek curves of Delta Synergy rate high among our customers because they accentuate most modern bathroom and kitchen designs. Delta Synergy also has outstanding qualities for which Delta faucet is known for," Cobankiat stresses.

Coby's Design Center is also home to other well-known and respected brands abroad, such as Baldwin, Weiser, Yale, EZSet, Dorma, Ives, Broadway Collection, Hunter Fans, Amerock, Jacuzzi and Fordham.

Cobankiat says they look forward to expanding their line of excellent products by adding more prestigious brands in the store to provide their clients with a wider array of architectural hardware products.

"Coby's focuses on catering to one's esthetic taste with high-quality brands like Delta Synergy. In doing so, we hope to achieve our objective of uplifting the hardware industry by subscribing to innovation, excellence, quality and service in the way we conduct our business," she says.

STANLEY BOSTITCH
Stanley Bostitch is a Division of Stanley Works USA – a leader in both consumer and professional handtools.

We invite you to apply for the Distributorship of our Stanley Bostitch Industrial Fasteners (the range consist of Coilnailers, bedding nailers, specialty staples and nails). You can also visit our showroom for our complete line of handtools.

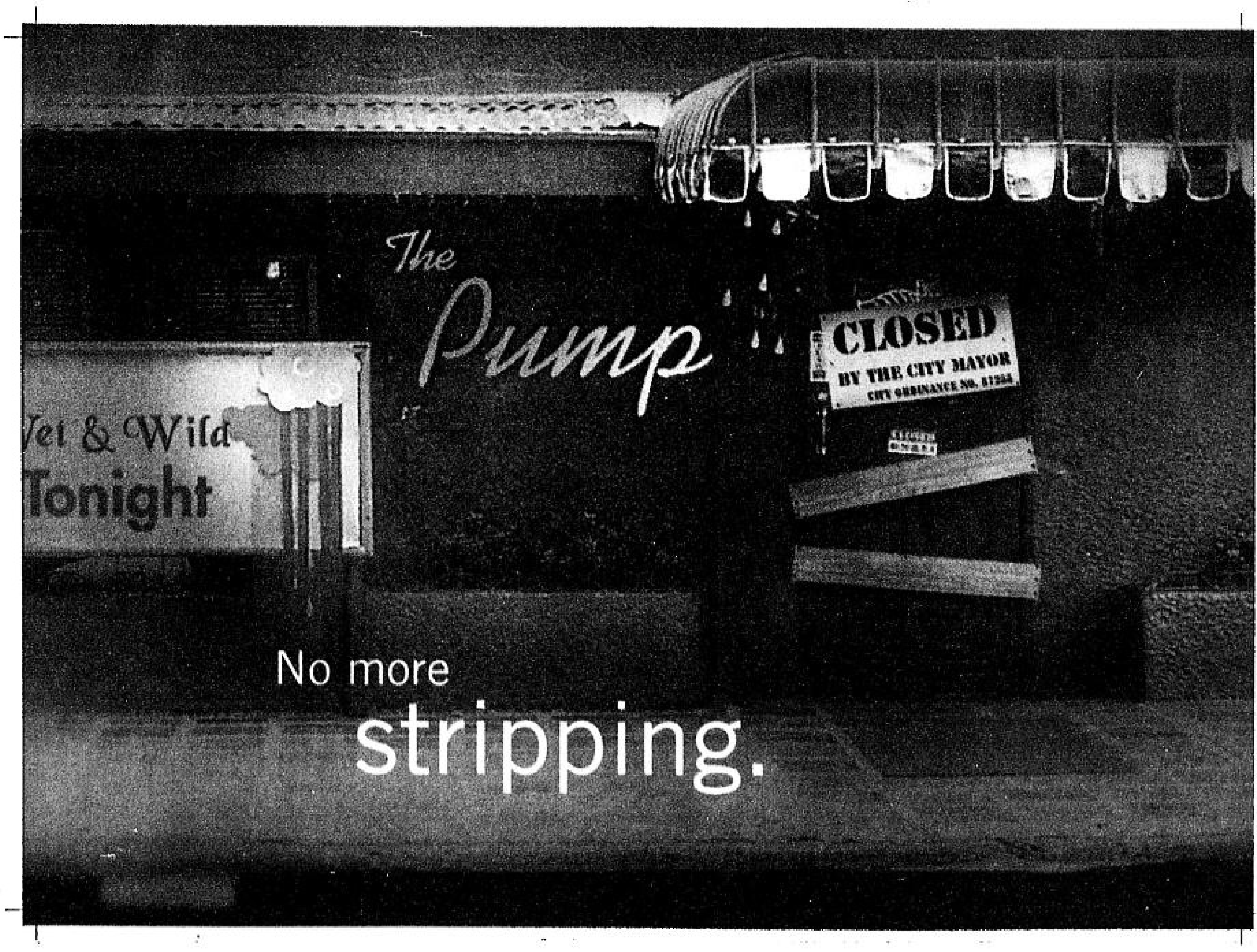
Please send your application together with your company profile to 5/f Pan Pacific Hotel corner Adriaticao and General Malvar Streets, Malate, Manila or contact as at 400-5557 for a general discussion. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Choose to be Different.
CHRYSLER
"The All New Voyager Town and Country"
"The All New Chrysler Grand Voyager"
Sheer Glory and Passion for Comfort
Parts and Service
Mopar
PARTS

Awesome Features

- 100% US Assembled.
- CERR-designed for Customer Equivalent Reliability Run for Comfort and Security which made Town and Country and Grand Voyager premiere in minivans.
- The premiere Daimler-Chrysler No. 1 minivan-seller in the states because of luxury, versatility and prestige.
- Engineered for a very smooth and sturdy vehicle stance due to expanded power and torque.

Officially distributed by **NORKIS AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES CORPORATION**


The Pump
CLOSED
BY THE CITY MAYOR
CITY ORDINANCE NO. 87254
Wet & Wild
Tonight
No more
stripping.

CM K "GOTCHA" PRNT AD:FA2 8/25/01 1:35 AM

Now you can correct from proofs without stripping. Lexmedia's Digital Ad Delivery Service imports your ads in digital file directly into the newspaper. Any corrections can be done digitally, without having to physically cut and paste. And since there's no color separation, there's no misregistration, either. With Lexmedia, you won't have to strip to get attention.

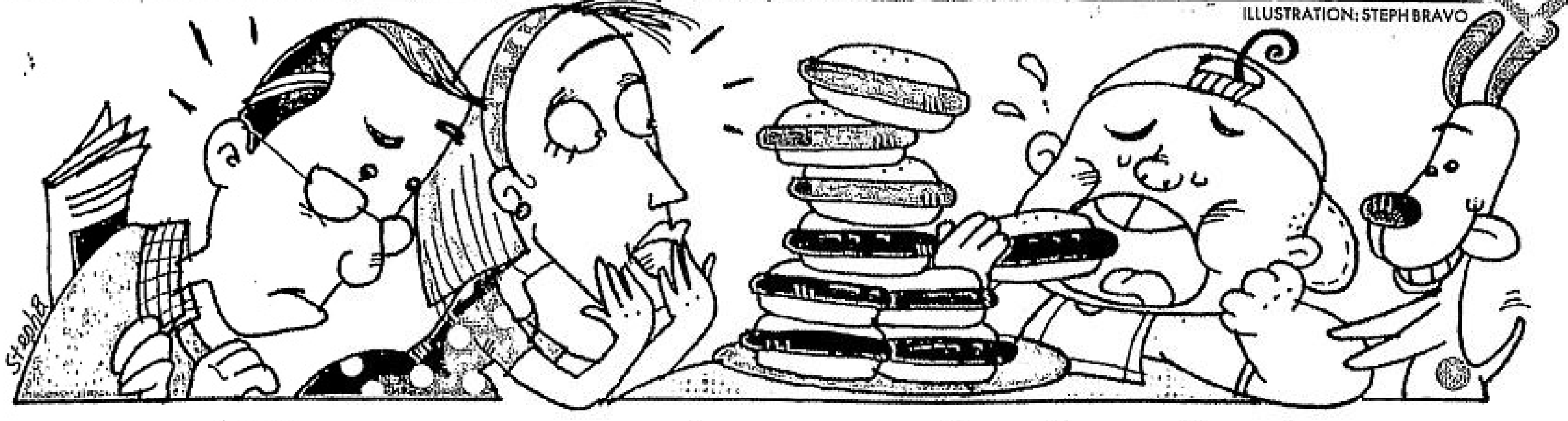
Lexmedia DIGITAL

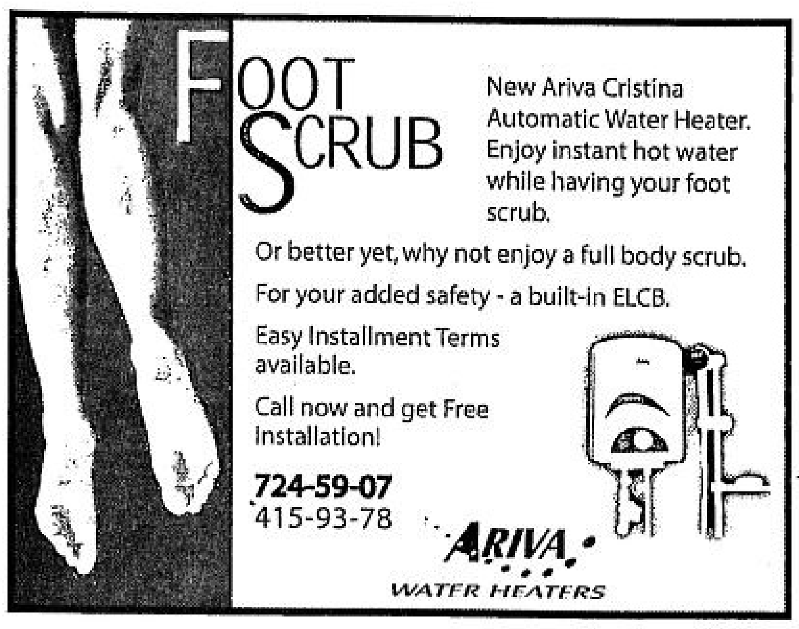
Office: Garden Level, Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1200, Philippines • Tel. no.: 811.33.83 • Fax no.: 892.49.66 • E-mail: info@lexmediadigital.ph

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

METHYL SALICYLATE
MENTHOL
撒隆巴斯
SALONPAS
MEDICATED PLASTER
For Intense Body Aches and Pains

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO




FOOT SCRUB
New Ariva Cristina Automatic Water Heater. Enjoy instant hot water while having your foot scrub.
Or better yet, why not enjoy a full body scrub.
For your added safety - a built-in ELCB.
Easy Installment Terms available.
Call now and get Free Installation!
724-59-07
415-93-78
ARIVA
WATER HEATERS

How parents can help their overweight kids get fit

LAST week, a mother asked me for advice regarding her overweight 9-year-old son. Not only was she concerned for his physical health but she was also worried about his psychological well-being. The boy was getting depressed about his growing waistline and she would catch him holding the fat around his belly and sighing. Poor kid! It can be tough to be an overweight and out-of-shape child. Many adults tell me how much psychological suffering they went through as overweight children.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

The mother told me that her son did not want to join any sports and many times did not want to play with other children if it involved prolonged physical activity. She also said that he had a tendency to eat more when he was upset or depressed.

This mother was right to be concerned about her son's problem. Diseases like heart disease, hypertension and diabetes all have their roots in childhood. In one study, 40 percent of the children (ages 5-8) had high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels. Childhood is the time to instill good eating and exercise habits. It becomes much harder to make lifestyle changes in adulthood. It's no wonder that sedentary children have a much greater chance of becoming sedentary adults.

So what's a parent to do when their child is unfit and overweight? Many things! In fact, it is the parents who have the greatest influence in being able to help their child. I remember one weight-loss expert saying that parents could be the greatest help or hindrance in the weight loss efforts of his young clients.

Be a role model

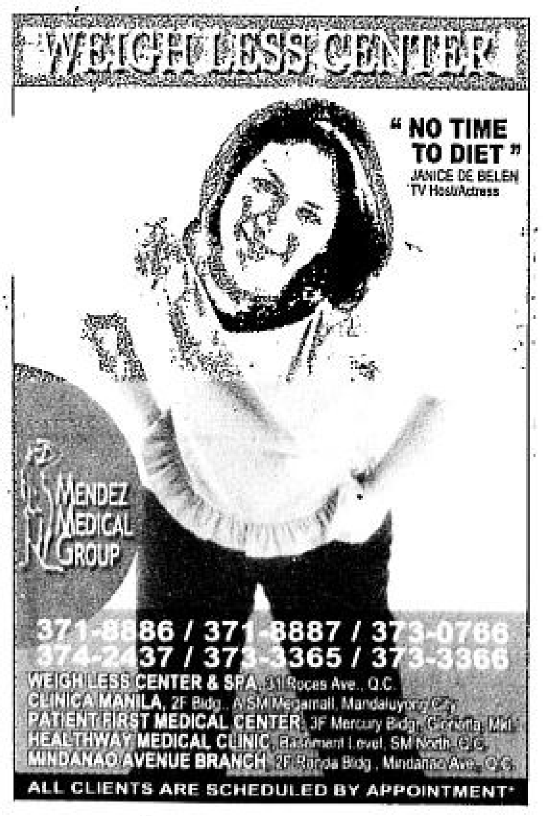
Before you can help your child, you have to ask if you are a good role model of a healthy lifestyle. The mother I mentioned above was "walking the talk." She exercises every day and watches what she eats. But some parents with overweight and unfit kids are overweight and unfit themselves. If this is your problem, then you will have to change your own lifestyle first before you can help your child.

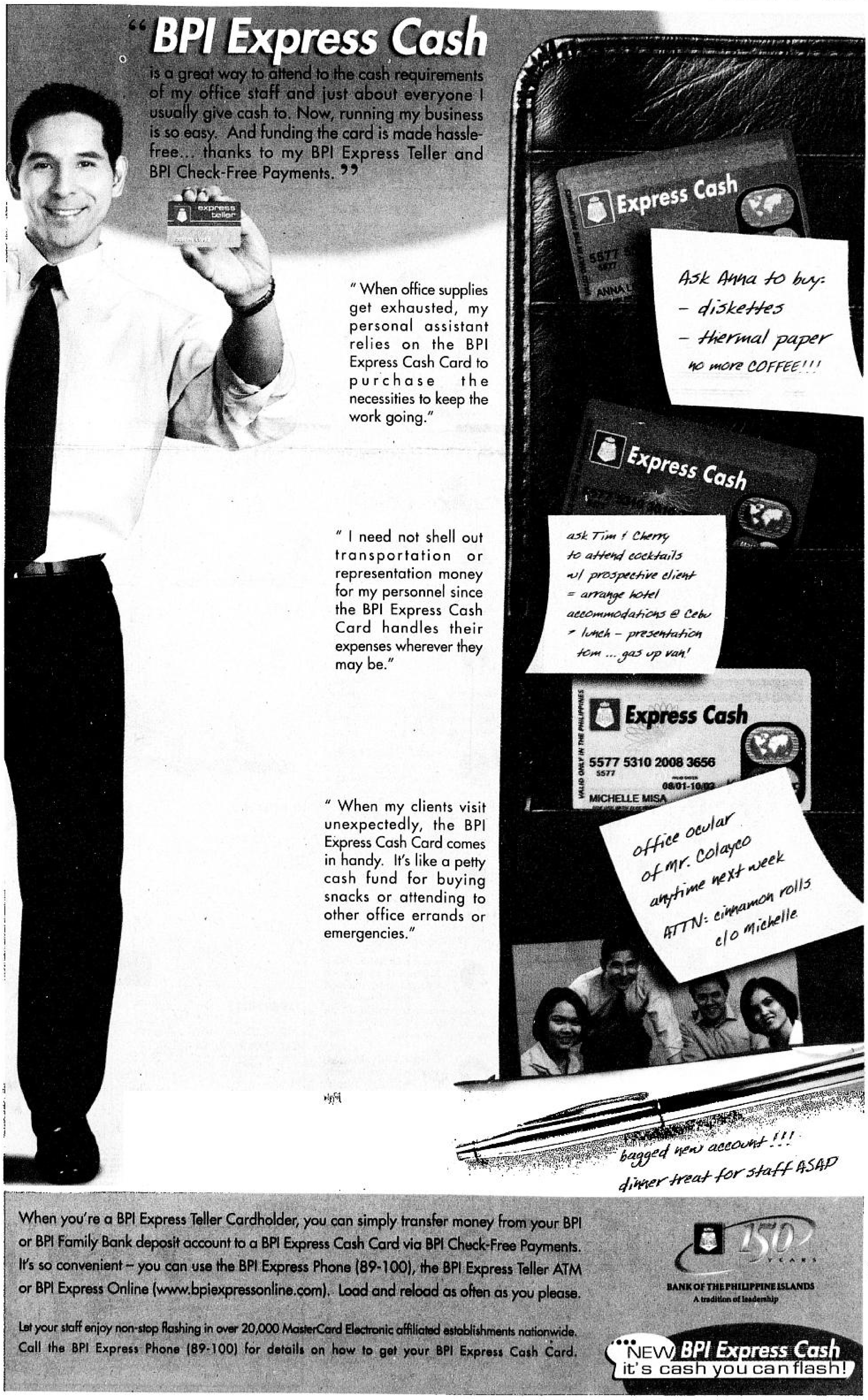
Get professional help if you need it

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that a kitchen pantry full of soft drinks, sweets, potato chips and the like are a major part of the reason children become overweight. But some kids put on excess pounds simply by eating too much good nutritious food. How can you tell how much is enough? Ideally, you should seek the advice of a certified dietician (a nutritionist who has passed the board exams) so your child can lose weight safely. Growing children need the right amount of calories and nutrients to reach their full potential.

You may also need the help of a psychologist or psychiatrist if your child is using food as a coping mechanism because he or she does not know how to express what they are feeling. The

HOW/p.C3


WEIGHLESS CENTER
" NO TIME TO DIET "
JANICE DE BELEN
TV Host/Actress
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
371-8886 / 371-8887 / 373-0766
374-2437 / 373-3365 / 373-3366
WEIGHLESS CENTER & SPA, 31 Roces Ave., Q.C.
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg., A SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., [illegible]
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, Basement Level, SM North, Q.C.
MINDANAO AVENUE BRANCH, 2F [illegible] Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*


"BPI Express Cash is a great way to attend to the cash requirements of my office staff and just about everyone I usually give cash to. Now, running my business is so easy. And funding the card is made hassle-free... thanks to my BPI Express Teller and BPI Check-Free Payments."

" When office supplies get exhausted, my personal assistant relies on the BPI Express Cash Card to purchase the necessities to keep the work going."

" I need not shell out transportation or representation money for my personnel since the BPI Express Cash Card handles their expenses wherever they may be."

" When my clients visit unexpectedly, the BPI Express Cash Card comes in handy. It's like a petty cash fund for buying snacks or attending to other office errands or emergencies."

When you're a BPI Express Teller Cardholder, you can simply transfer money from your BPI or BPI Family Bank deposit account to a BPI Express Cash Card via BPI Check-Free Payments. It's so convenient – you can use the BPI Express Phone (89-100), the BPI Express Teller ATM or BPI Express Online (www.bpiexpressonline.com). Load and reload as often as you please.

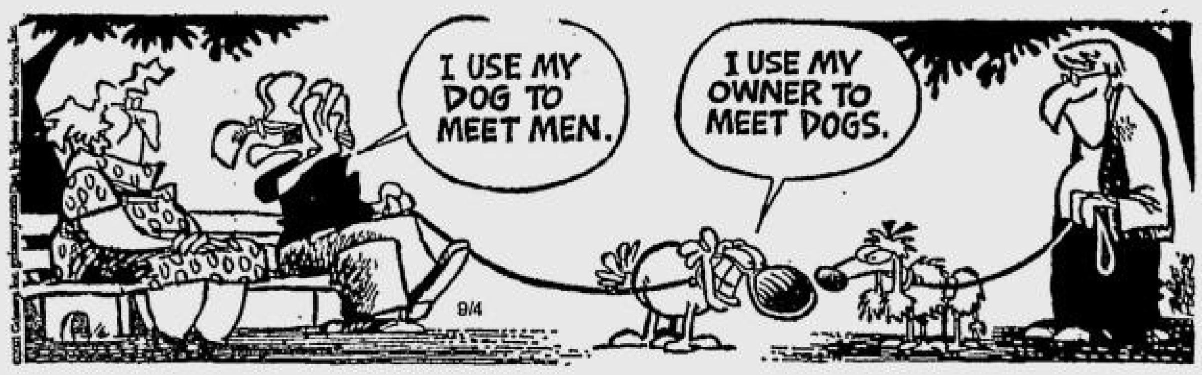
Let your staff enjoy non-stop flashing in over 20,000 MasterCard Electronic affiliated establishments nationwide. Call the BPI Express Phone (89-100) for details on how to get your BPI Express Cash Card.

150 YEARS
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

NEW BPI Express Cash
it's cash you can flash!

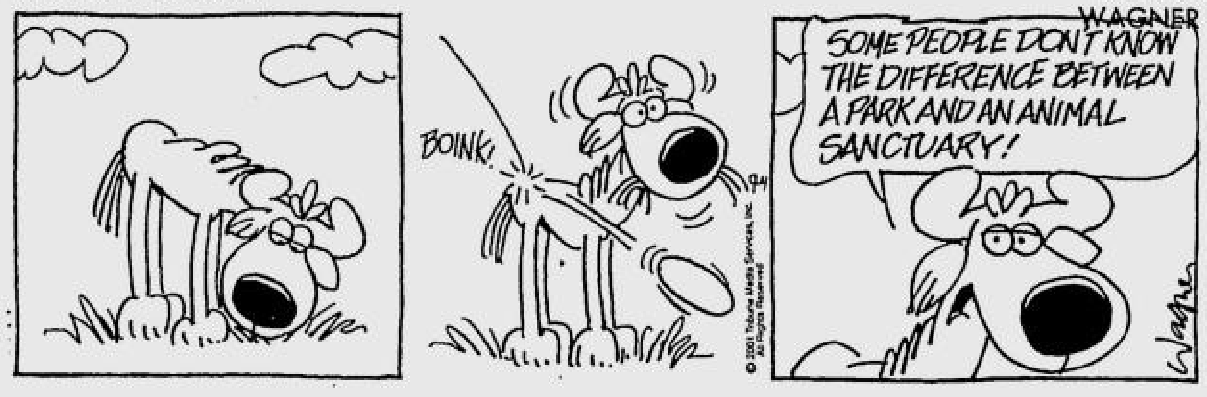
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I USE MY DOG TO MEET MEN.
I USE MY OWNER TO MEET DOGS.
9/4

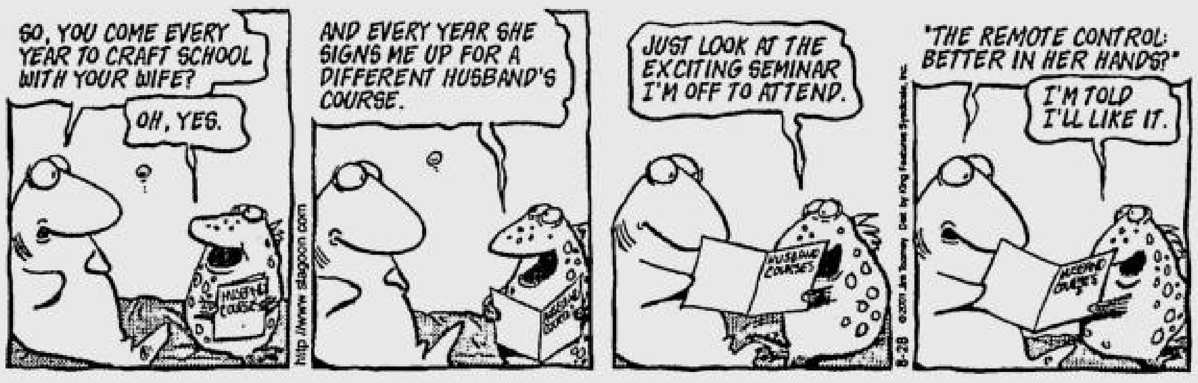
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


BOINK!
SOME PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PARK AND AN ANIMAL SANCTUARY!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Wagner

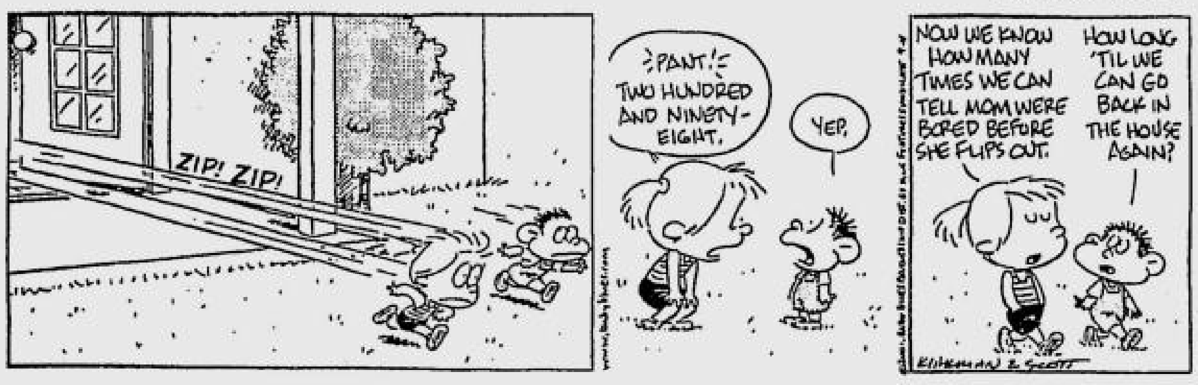
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, YOU COME EVERY YEAR TO CRAFT SCHOOL WITH YOUR WIFE?
OH, YES.
AND EVERY YEAR SHE SIGNS ME UP FOR A DIFFERENT HUSBAND'S COURSE.
JUST LOOK AT THE EXCITING SEMINAR I'M OFF TO ATTEND.
HUSBAND COURSES
"THE REMOTE CONTROL: BETTER IN HER HANDS?"
I'M TOLD I'LL LIKE IT.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-28

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZIP! ZIP!
PANT! TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT.
YEP.
NOW WE KNOW HOW MANY TIMES WE CAN TELL MOM WE'RE BORED BEFORE SHE FLIPS OUT.
HOW LONG 'TIL WE CAN GO BACK IN THE HOUSE AGAIN?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donna Karan, Sting, Don McLean, Lorraine Bracco, Rex Reed

Happy Birthday: Don't waste time. Focus on your goals and be relentless. If you lose that defeatist attitude and start believing, you can form partnerships and make money. Your numbers: 9, 13, 22, 25, 28, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy today as too much idle time will lead to trouble. No one, including you, has the foggiest idea what you'll do next. Control and direction will be a must.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Slow down; nothing could be that important. You'll make a false impression if you seem jumpy and erratic. Study your finances to determine whether adjustments are needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a stance for a cause you believe in. Your intellect and thirst for knowledge will lead in many new directions. Interesting friendships can develop.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make professional changes today. Set up interviews or talk to your boss about your career intentions. You may want to check out an interesting business partnership.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got everything figured out. You're a born leader in any group. Initiating new projects and sparking others' enthusiasm is a gift and will be an asset.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your financial situation can improve if you make a worthwhile investment. Complete those home-improvement projects you started long ago so you can move on to other, more interesting hobbies.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): What a great day for love. You're ready to make a romantic commitment again. If you are single, you can meet someone new. Spend time with a loved one and let it be known how much you care. You can never reassure a lover often enough.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be fun-loving and entertaining. After-work activities will allow you to know your colleagues better. Your mysterious and enticing comments will captivate others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Nothing can hold you down. You need to play hard at challenging, competitive activities and feel that you've conquered the world. You'll enjoy winning.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is money to be made, so get moving. If you form a partnership, be sure you both understand your responsibilities beforehand.

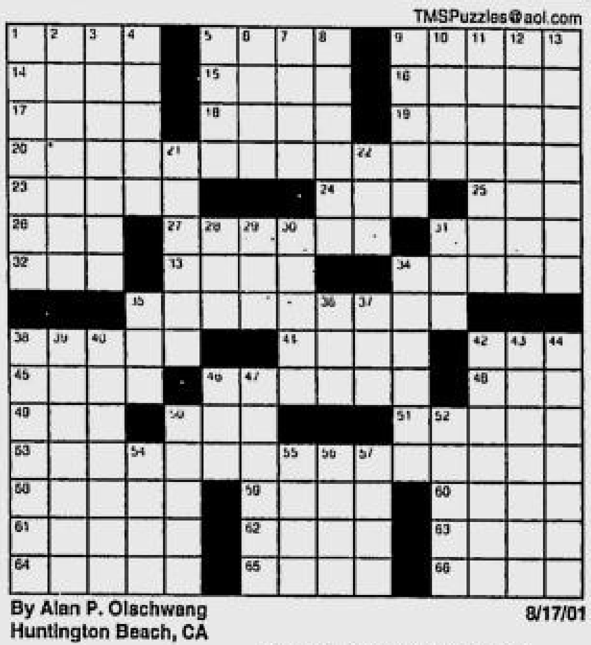
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Socialize with friends who know how to have fun. Romance strikes in the strangest places, so don't hesitate to meet an intriguing person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make headway at work. Extra effort is a good way to earn a raise. It may even lead to a better position with more responsibility and satisfying challenges.

Birthday Baby: You have what it takes to be great. You are intuitive, bright and care deeply about others. Your ability to see both sides of an issue will be an asset throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/17/01

ACROSS
1 Gullible dupes
5 June 6, 1944
9 Faculty
14 Drop heavily
15 Top-notch
16 Discussion group
17 Toward open waters
18 Sunken grooves
19 Best
20 Start of Evan Esar quote
23 Shows teeth?
24 Under the weather
25 Ill temper
26 Leman or Neuchatel, e.g.
27 De la Renta and de la Hoya
31 Louver element
32 Printers' measures
33 Goad
34 Passageways
35 Part 2 of quote
38 Felt poorly
41 Paul Bryant's nickname
42 Rock composer Brian
45 Privy to
46 Polar region
48 Actor Leibman
49 GE acquisition in 1986
50 __-Margret
51 Ham it up
53 End of quote
58 Dislike categorically
59 Implement
60 Fit for picking
61 "Blue __ Shoes"
62 Different
63 Holiday forerunners
64 Wormy shapes
65 Game units
66 Lairs

DOWN
1 Sequin
2 Other finisher
3 Certain literary criticism
4 Hall-of-Fame pitcher Warren
5 Shucks!
6 Quarterback Flutie
7 Against: pref.
8 Subordinate's response
9 Ruin
10 Showing strain
11 Emmets' abode
12 __ Reserve Bank
13 Daisies, e.g.
21 Sow bug or gribble
22 Golfer Ernie
28 Sell-out letters
29 Cape on the Atlantic
30 Homemade brick
31 Dispirited
34 Valerie or Tess
35 Mil. rank
36 Game room, for short
37 Sheep sound
38 Military landing field
39 Nightmarish burden
40 Abhors
42 Like winds and rivers
43 Closed
44 Unity
46 Business abbr.
47 $100 bills
50 Actor Lew
52 Stuck in the mud
54 Portend
55 Sleeper spy
56 Emily of etiquette
57 Tavern selections

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

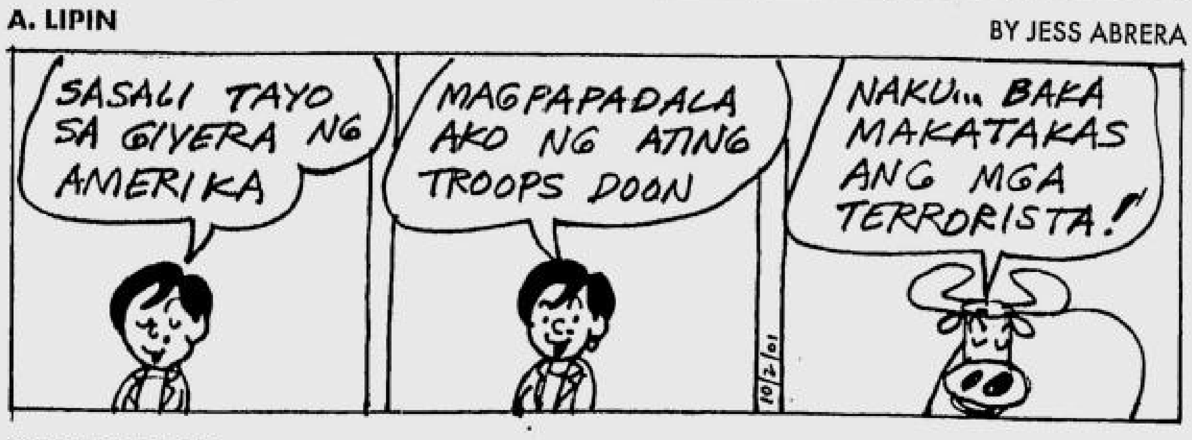
O	O	P	S	■	H	A	T	E	D	■	I	R	O	N
A	R	I	A	■	O	L	I	V	E	■	N	A	T	E
R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N	■	C	I	T	E
■	■	■	T	U	S	K	S	■	■	C	O	N	E	D
P	A	L	E	T	T	E	■	B	O	O	M	E	R	S
A	P	A	R	T	■	■	B	E	L	I	E	F	■	■
P	A	I	N	E	K	I	L	L	E	R	■	O	A	T
A	C	N	E	■	O	V	O	L	O	■	E	R	G	O
S	E	E	■	M	A	I	N	E	S	T	R	E	A	M
■	■	A	T	O	N	E	D	■	■	W	A	S	T	E
S	T	R	A	U	S	S	■	O	R	E	S	T	E	S
E	R	O	S	E	■	■	A	D	I	E	U	■	■	■
T	A	U	T	■	P	A	L	I	N	D	R	O	M	E
T	I	N	E	■	A	L	O	U	D	■	E	N	I	D
O	L	D	S	■	D	E	E	M	S	■	S	E	T	S

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

8/17/01

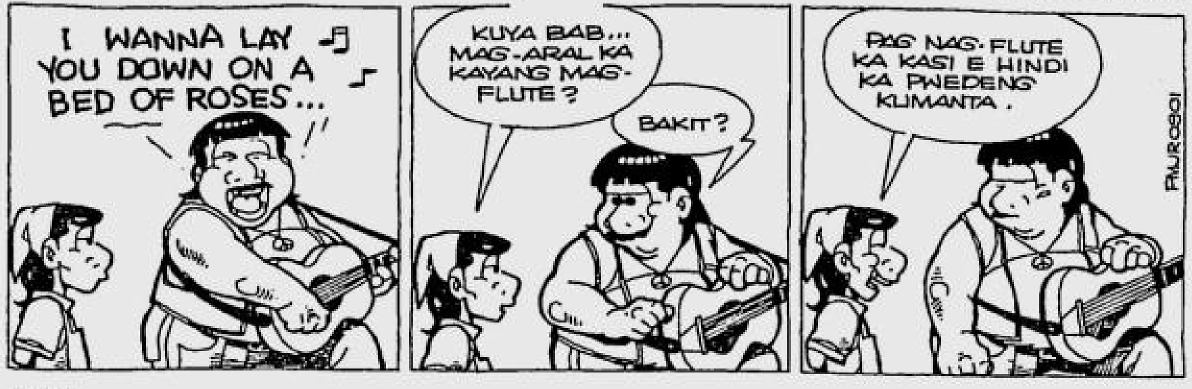
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SASALI TAYO SA GIYERA NG AMERIKA
MAGPAPADALA AKO NG ATING TROOPS DOON
10/2/01
NAKU... BAKA MAKATAKAS ANG MGA TERRORISTA!

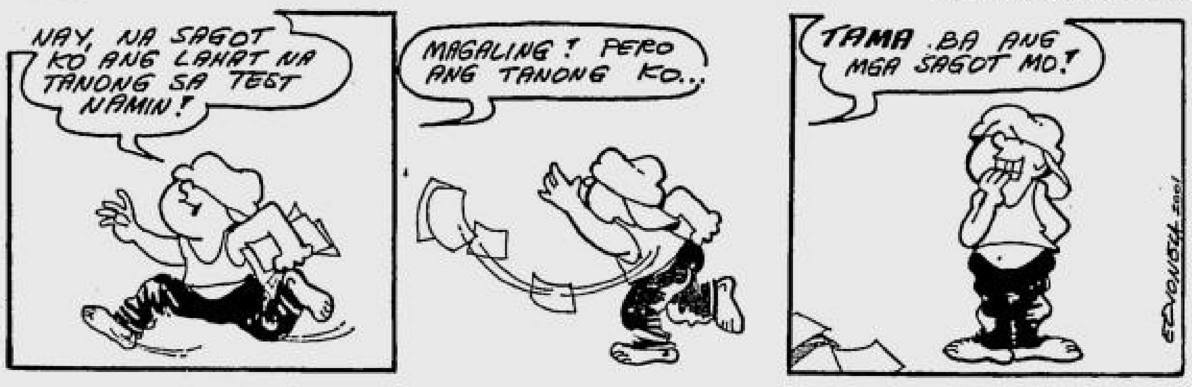
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


I WANNA LAY YOU DOWN ON A BED OF ROSES...
KUYA BAB... MAG-ARAL KA KAYANG MAG-FLUTE?
BAKIT?
PAG NAG-FLUTE KA KASI E HINDI KA PWEDENG KUMANTA.
PMJR0901

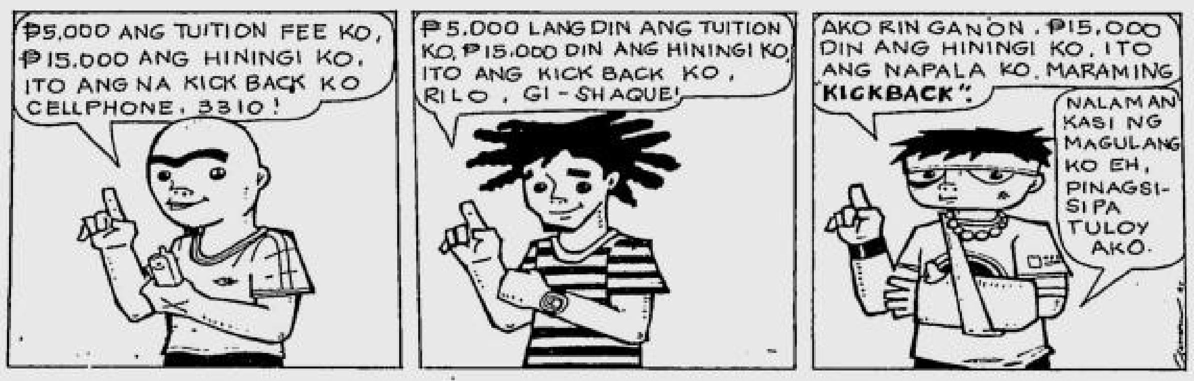
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, NA SAGOT KO ANG LAHAT NA TANONG SA TEST NAMIN!
MAGALING! PERO ANG TANONG KO...
TAMA BA ANG MGA SAGOT MO?
EDIONELA 2001

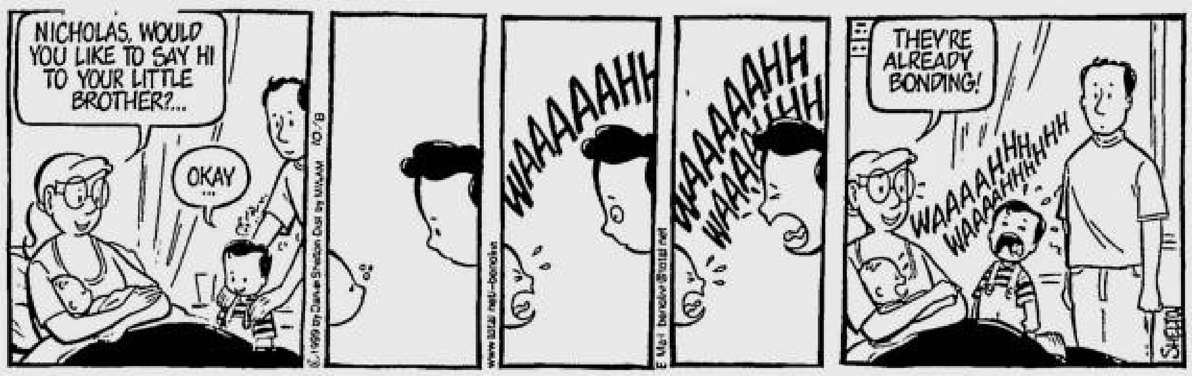
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


₱5,000 ANG TUITION FEE KO, ₱15,000 ANG HININGI KO. ITO ANG NA KICK BACK KO CELLPHONE. 3310!
₱5,000 LANG DIN ANG TUITION KO, ₱15,000 DIN ANG HININGI KO, ITO ANG KICK BACK KO, RILO, GI-SHAQUE!
AKO RIN GANON. ₱15,000 DIN ANG HININGI KO. ITO ANG NAPALA KO. MARAMING "KICKBACK".
NALAMAN KASI NG MAGULANG KO EH, PINAGSISIPA TULOY AKO.

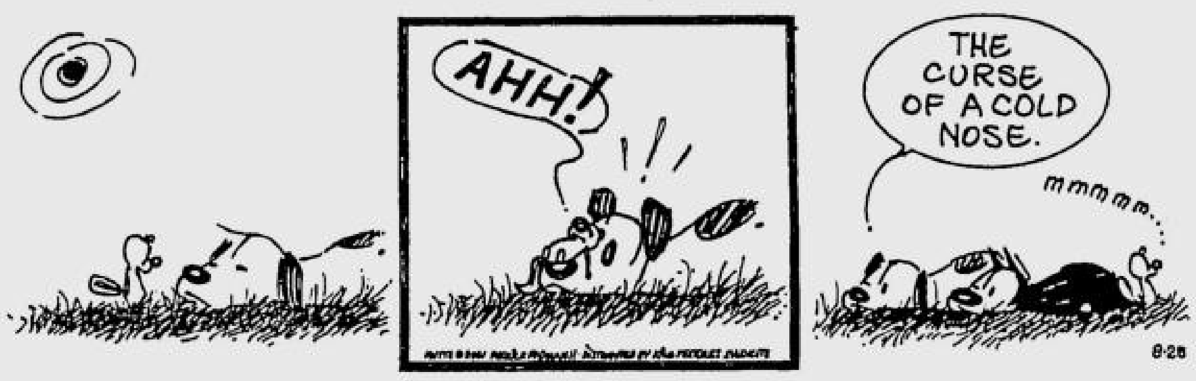
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NICHOLAS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY HI TO YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?...
OKAY
WAAAAAAHH
WAAAAAAHH WAAAAHHH
THEY'RE ALREADY BONDING!
WAAAAHHHHHHH WAAAAHHHHHH
SHELTON

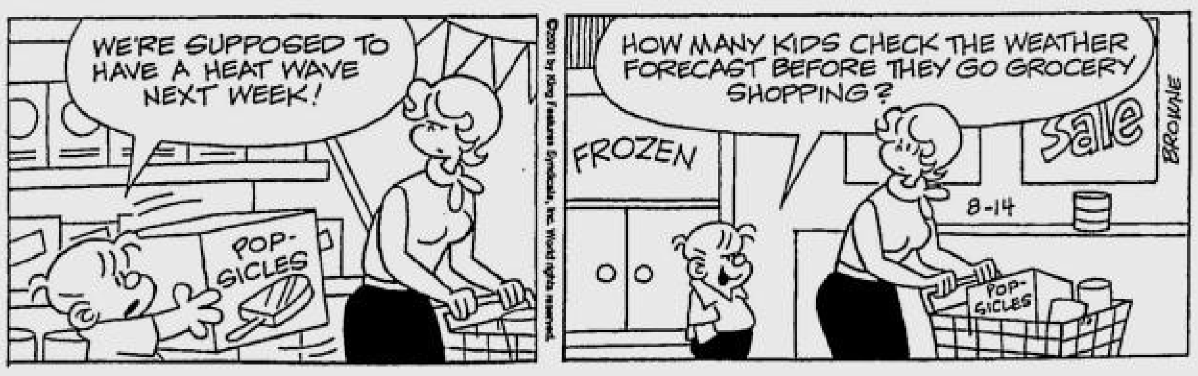
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH!
THE CURSE OF A COLD NOSE.
mmmmm...
8-28

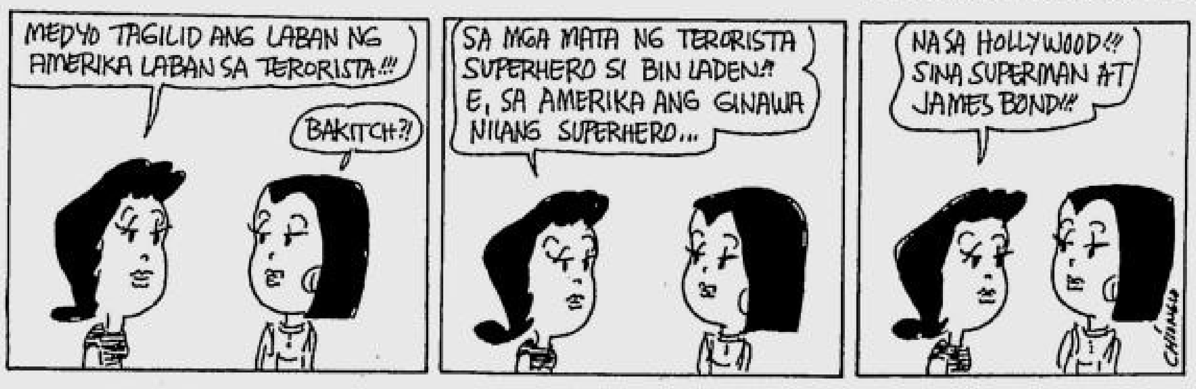
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A HEAT WAVE NEXT WEEK!
POP-SICLES
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
HOW MANY KIDS CHECK THE WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE THEY GO GROCERY SHOPPING?
FROZEN
Sale
BROWNE
8-14
POP-SICLES

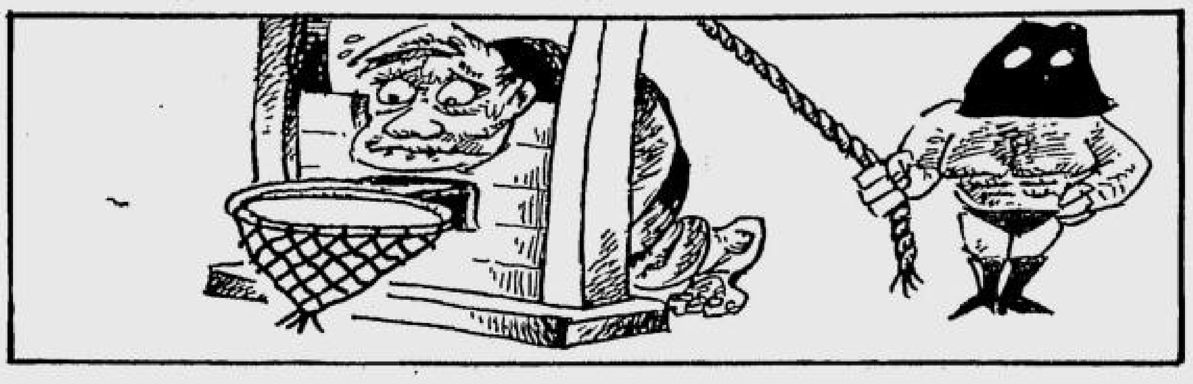
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MEDYO TAGILID ANG LABAN NG AMERIKA LABAN SA TERORISTA!!!
BAKITCH?!
SA MGA MATA NG TERORISTA SUPERHERO SI BIN LADEN!! E, SA AMERIKA ANG GINAWA NILANG SUPERHERO...
NASA HOLLYWOOD!!! SINA SUPERMAN AT JAMES BOND!!!
CHIONGLO

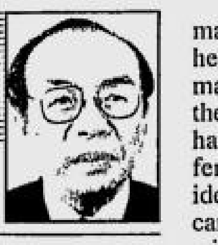
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



A new kind of war

INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T. Licauco

It will be a clash of ideas, faiths and cultures; as such, it will be non-winnable

ALTHOUGH the civilized and freedom-loving world generally agrees that the brazen attacks perpetrated by terrorists on Sept. 11 in New York and Washington ought to be condemned and their perpetrators brought to justice, America should at least realize that her hands are not entirely clean. American soldiers also committed atrocities and brutalities against countless innocent civilians in the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East.

In the aftermath of World War II, American military strategy has been to keep the battlefields outside America. That's why American soldiers were sent to those faraway lands. As long as American cities were safe from enemy attack, their citizens could sleep well.

And then the unthinkable happened. America was attacked right in the very seats of its military and economic powers—the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, using their own aircraft flown (though unwillingly) by their own citizens. It was the most bizarre American nightmare come true.

Understandably, Americans reacted with shock and anger. They want justice and revenge. They want to retaliate, but against whom? Which country is America's enemy in this bizarre nightmare? And like a bad dream, the answers are not easily discernible.

If the Americans attack the wrong country and punish the wrong people, and if more innocent lives are lost because of America's desire for revenge and retaliation, a bigger conflagration may engulf the whole world. In such a scenario, America will ultimately be blamed for it.

This is America's greatest dilemma and challenge today. Because of her superior military strength she may easily win the battle, but lose the war. For this is, as Americans have pointed out themselves, a different kind of war. This is a war of ideas, faiths and cultures. And one can't fight an idea or faith or culture with bullets and explosives. One can only conquer an idea with a better idea.

Unknown enemy

I hope the American military establishment will not commit the same mistake it did in Vietnam. Using sophisticated weapons and high technological capability, they thought they could easily defeat the ill-equipped and ill-fed Vietcong guerrilla soldiers. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara was in the faraway Pentagon monitoring and directing the war using the latest analytical tools of Operations Research. Based on such analyses, the Vietcong could be defeated in x-number of weeks by killing an x-number of soldiers a day. His cold statistical analysis backfired and the Americans left Vietnam without being victorious and with their soldiers badly traumatized.

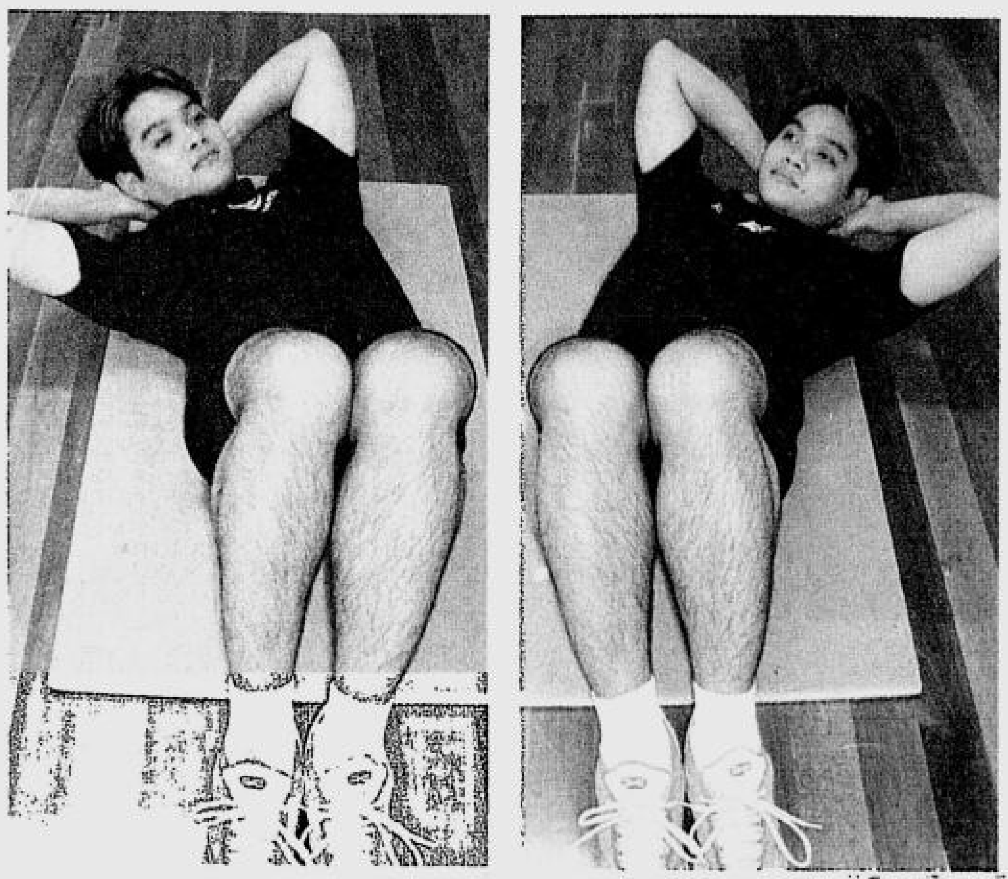
Now the enemy is unknown and he is scattered all over the world. He may even be still in the very bowels of America today, waiting for another opportune time to strike. The enemy this time has no face, no country, no specific territory or base of operations. He can be anywhere on earth, or in their own neighborhood.

So religion becomes the easy scapegoat although this has been officially denied. The enemy is a terrorist, not Christian, Buddhist or Jewish, but possibly Muslim. Therefore, every Muslim country is suspect. And already, the Muslims in America and other western countries are being harassed and intimidated.

But there is a big difference between an American soldier and a Muslim warrior. The American soldier is willing to die for his country. The Muslim warrior is willing to die for his God. Who do you think has the bigger motivation to fight between the two?

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Abdominal crunch with side bend

STRENGTHENS and tightens abdominal muscles

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with knees and feet together and hands behind your head.
2. Curl your torso upward then bend sideways to the right and to the left in a continuous manner.

Performance tips:

1. Focus on trying to bring your elbow to your hip.
2. Move at a moderate and controlled speed.

Repetitions:
Do 10-12 repetitions (one repetition equals bending to the right and then to the left).

How parents can help . . .

(From page C1)

therapist will teach you and your child how to talk about feelings in an appropriate manner. Overeating can be a symptom of a deeper psychological issue.

We learn to use food to comfort ourselves very early in life. Just watch a child stop crying when it is given a lollipop even if he or she isn't hungry. Even as adults, we tend to eat the foods that remind us of our childhood when we are upset. These are called "comfort foods." Of course, not everyone reacts the same way to emotional distress. Some people actually lose their appetite when under stress.

Teach kids lifetime fitness skills

Being forced to join team sports can traumatize athletically challenged children. This can turn them off for good about being physically active. I know many people who hate exercise because they have such bad memories of being forced to do sports as a kid and enduring taunts and jeers because they were so lousy at it. Now as adults, they equate exercise with those memories.

Kids should learn skills for lifetime fitness (swimming, cycling, running, dancing, hiking, etc.) and not just how to play sports. These skills are more practical because involvement in team sports is difficult to carry over to adulthood.

One expert noted that in spite of the many youth sports leagues in the United States, the adult obesity levels are still climbing. As a child, you have all the time to play on a team but as an adult, you and your friends have to work to earn a living and it is hard to find time to get together for your favorite sport.

Spend time with your child

Even though children have an inborn desire to run around and play, your unfit child may have lost this natural tendency because of a lifestyle of playing computer games or watching TV and also because he feels weak when forced to do physical activity of any kind. How do you bring it back? Start by spending time with your child doing outdoor activities. It can be something as simple as taking a walk around your neighborhood. Before their teens, children love spending time with their parents. Take advantage and use that time to get to know your child as you gently lead them down the path to fitness. You can go biking, hiking, rollerblading, swimming, etc. Just don't make the child feel like this is "punishment" for being overweight. If the child tires easily, stop and rest, then continue again when he or she is ready. Eventually, your child's fitness level will increase and before you know it, your child will have regained what was rightfully theirs—a fit and healthy body.

I know one success story involving a single mother and her daughter. The child had become overweight partly as a result of the stress she was under during her parents' separation. The mother worked so it was the *yaya* who would walk or roller-blade with the daughter after school.

On weekends, it was the mom who would go with the child. The daughter not only lost weight (the *yaya* became slimmer, too) but, when she reached high school, she had gained enough confidence to join the varsity soccer team and even went abroad to compete internationally. Today, she is a young woman committed to a lifestyle of fitness. Things would have turned out a whole lot differently if that mother had not given her daughter that most precious of gifts—her time and attention.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

Childhood is the time to instill good eating and exercise habits. It becomes much harder to make lifestyle changes in adulthood

A 12-year-old lad's passion for motocross

AT 3½, when most kids were just beginning to say the word "motorcycle," Kenneth San Andres was already learning how to ride one. At 5½, this tyke on a bike finished first and way ahead of his opponents in his debut motocross race. Now 12, Kenneth is king of Philippine motocross' mini class (65 cc) after lording it over the sport's peewee division for the past four years.

Although credit for such a feat goes to Marciano San Andres, Kenneth's father and an expert class racer himself who sat his son on a motorbike and taught him everything there is to know about the sport, Dad doesn't discount his boy's inherent talent. After all, no 12-year-old wins over 130 trophies in a seven-year span just like that. "Gifted *siya. Natural*," says Dad admiringly of his son. "*At madali siyang turuan.*"

KENNETH San Andres

Let's not forget the rider's other amazing strengths. Apart from being intensely focused before and during a race, Kenneth apparently has a stomach for speed, the kind that makes his mother Josephine Rubio San Andres "very nervous," she admits apologetically. "*Sa* speed, *walang takot si* Kenneth," confirms his father. "*Mas natatakot pa niya ako! Pero dinadaan na lang namin so dasal. At malaking bagay ang* practice. *Doon ka magkakaroon ng tiwala na* okay *ang sakay niya*."

"Practice" translates to two hours of basketball during weekends, and a speed session on the race track with Dad on Sundays. The formula isn't for the faint of heart: in a 5-to-8-set session Kenneth must ride 10-15 laps per set, picking up speed as the laps and sets progress. The opportunity to crash or incur an accident is always there, so this champ carefully clads himself in complete motocross gear even when he isn't racing: there's the helmet to shield his head; a pair of Oakley goggles to secure his eyes while riding and keep his vision clear in bad weather; a snug long-sleeved jersey and pants to envelop him against the elements; and gloves, high boots, a chest protector, and pads on the elbows and knees for added safety.

"Kenneth likes Oakley's eyewear because they fit him well even if they're designed for older users," observes Dad. "*Malaki ang tulong ng* Oakley *sa kanya*. The goggles (he uses the O Frame MX) have a strap that's adjustable so it clings to the helmet even when it's raining. *At maganda ang* lenses-*nila*. They're clear, scratch-resistant, and they come with a tear-off lens *na puwede mong tanggalin* when mud or dirt splatters on the goggles. *Gustong-gusto niya talaga ang* Oakley, *pati* shades *nila* (Kenneth wears the model called Minute) *sinusuot niya sa* mall."

If this 12-year-old can hack the demands and discipline of motocross, it's only because of his overwhelming desire to win. "*Minsan pag* nag-second place *siya, naiiyak siya. Di niya matanggap*," his father confesses. "But I always remind him that in a competition, you can't always be No. 1. He has to learn to accept that it's also all right to finish second or third."

A grounded, normal life should keep Kenneth fueled and on track for the sport in the years to come. A sixth grader at the St. Louis College in Valenzuela City, the eldest of two kids (he has a younger sister) enjoys Math and Science in school, and fiddles with computer games or his remote-control cars in his spare time. What direction to take in the future is all up to him. "*Hanggang hilig niya ang* motocross, full support *ako*," assures Kenneth's dad. "*Pero kung ayaw na niya, puwede siya mag*-stop."

From all indications, Kenneth doesn't appear to be hitting the brakes on his promising career any time soon. He is, in fact, putting away whatever prize money he earns for a brand-new bike. This racer's dream when he grows up? "*Ipagpatuloy ang* motocross," he says succinctly.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Does MEDICard pay for the required hospital deposit during confinement of a member?

Yes, that all important hospital deposit is included in our healthcare program. Members confined of a covered illness in an accredited hospital, under the care of a MEDICard primary physician, need not pay the hospital their required deposit.

Meet your MEDICard Team

MEDICard is proud to have **Dr. Ricardo R. Braganza** as one of its accredited OB-Gynecologists. Dr. Braganza is a batch '78 UERMM Doctor of Medicine graduate. He had a year of residency training in Medicine and Surgery before taking his training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Medical Center Manila. In 1987, he became a Diplomate to the OB-Gynecological Society and in 1990 earned his Fellowship degree. Outside his OB-Gynecological practice, Dr. Braganza serves as the Medical Doctor-in-charge to Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya at the URO Industrial Clinic, Ermita, Manila. He is currently the Assistant Medical Coordinator at Manila Doctor's Hospital; providing quality healthcare to MEDICard members. Doc Ricardo believes that he is at his best as an OB-Gynecologist, but his long exposure and enthusiasm in doing general practice compliments his work to become a better physician and practitioner, which he now applies as MEDICard's accredited specialist. For your medical services at Manila Doctor's Hospital, visit Dr. Ricardo Braganza at room 405.

If you are in need of a MEDICard accredited Pediatrician at St. Luke's Medical Center, look for **Dr. Maria Jocelyn Maño Abuel.** Dr. Abuel is known simply to her patients as Doc Jo. She is a Doctor of Medicine graduate from UERM-MMC and received her residency training in General Pediatrics from St. Luke's. She has been a valued MEDICard service provider for over 5 years now. Doc Jo is a lover of books and spends most of her free time reading. For your consultations, visit Dr. Abuel at SLMC, room 610 of the Cathedral Heights Bldg., South Tower every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 in the afternoon.

One of the recent addition to MEDICard's medical service team is **Dr. Jose Rufino P. Jocson.** Doc Jose is a graduate of Cebu Doctors College of Medicine and is based in Riverside Medical Center, Bacolod City. He received his specialization training in General Surgery also from Riverside Medical Center and has been in practice of his specialization for more than 6 years now. For consultations, visit Dr. Jocson at the Medical Arts Bldg., Mondays to Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 noon and then again from 3 PM to 6 in the evening.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

For the love of Dad's old car

MEMORIES are brought forth by old beloved things.

For brothers Manoling and Jose Morato, clinging to their father's vintage car—a 1941 Cadillac limousine—for its sentimental value is one way of continuing his legacy. The Cadillac was a prized possession of the late Tomas Morato, who used the car extensively during his last years as a politician. Morato, a car aficionado and a very good friend of former President Manuel Quezon, started using the Cadillac during his term as the Commonwealth's first congressman from Quezon City.

When he passed away in 1965, he left behind the limousine. To keep their father's legacy alive, Manoling, the feisty former censors' chief, and businessman Jose, decided to restore it.

"The car is the piece that keeps the family together. When we see it we see our father and it's as if we never lost the patriarch of the family," says Jose, a businessman who owns Z-Speed Motorsports Products Inc., distributor of high-performance automotive products.

The brothers relate that during the war, the elder Morato fell ill when he was brought to Fort Santiago. He was sent to the United States with his family to seek medical attention. It was in the US that he came across the Cadillac. With his passion for classic cars, Don Tomas bought the car and shipped it to Europe along with his family before their journey back home to Manila. The car has since undergone a few restorations.

Car value

The Morato brothers did a lot to breathe new life into their father's car. They agree that restoring old cars can be very expensive, but it is the value of the car to the owner that matters most. In their case, the time and attention they devoted to bringing back the Cadillac's glory simply cannot be quantified.

"We never talked about the money we spent in repairing the car through the years. We were just thinking about some love, care and dedication to the car because it had belonged to our father," Manoling says.

While they have people working on the car to make sure it is always in its tiptop and shiniest form, the brothers actually enjoy getting their hands dirty and tinkering with it.

For instance, Jose drives the limousine around the Quezon City area every Sunday morning. Though he revealed that driving the 14-ft-long Cadillac can sometimes be troublesome, riding in the vintage car is a combination of inexplicable pleasure and a trip down memory lane.

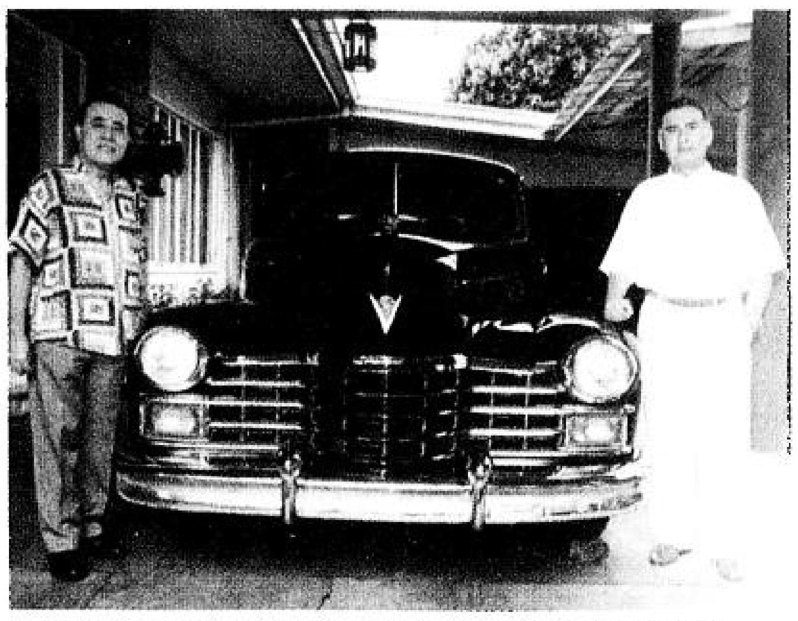
"When I was in high school, my classmates and I would go to places where there were gimmicks. But the car was a gimmick in itself. I had a great time driving the car," Jose recalls with a smile.

At present, the 1941 Cadillac limousine is getting spruced up in preparation for this year's "Motorshow International" on Oct. 3-7, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at the World Trade Center. Organized by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco), "Motorshow" is the country's biggest and longest-running auto and cycle show that will gather together major car manufacturers, dealers, automotive parts and car-care accessories producers.

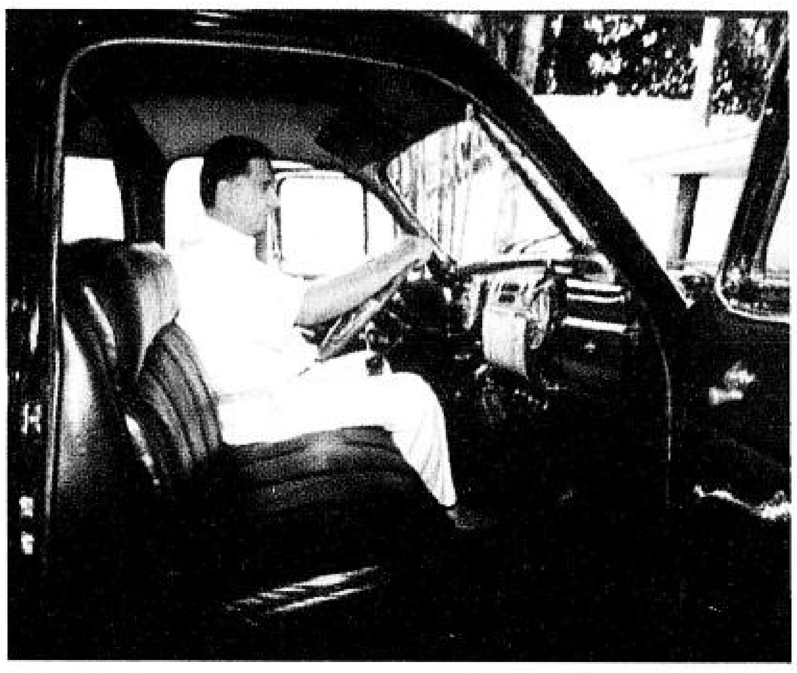
Through the exhibit, the siblings want to share with the public their father's memory, especially with those who have not had the chance to see a car like this.

"When you go to the 'Motorshow,' both young and old can somehow relate to something—cars. We hope to be able to show that this kind of vehicle actually existed before today's new models came," said Jose.

The Morato brothers have devoted almost half of their lives rebuilding their father's car. And now, they hope to show GenY that this piece of metal is more than just a showpiece but is an integral part of our country's great history.



MANOLING (left) and Jose Morato share their father's passion for classic cars.



FOR JOSE Morato, riding his father's vintage car is a trip down memory lane.

Fashion company continues to preserve the environment

TO MARK its 14th year, about 110 Bench employees trooped to the La Mesa Watershed, Caloocan City. This year, the country's leading lifestyle store held a tree-planting activity as part of the ABS-CBN Foundation and Ayala Foundation's Adopt a Hectare program which aims to preserve Mother Nature.

Headed by Ben Chan himself, who chairs the Bench board, the staff was given at least five to seven mahogany seedlings to plant in the hectares of land that were "adopted" by the company. The activity gave them a chance to commune with nature and be away from all the stress and pressures of work. It was also a learning experience as people were given the chance to share their own experiences about planting and their views about preserving our forests. Everyone was asked to plant the seedlings with their bare hands and assume the responsibility of making sure these are planted properly to ensure their growth.

The tree planting activity is one way for Bench to do its share in securing the future of the next generation.

This is not the first time that Bench showed concern for the environment. In the past, it launched an ecological campaign that focused on two kinds of endangered species: The tarsier monkey and the monkey-eating eagle. Shirts and stuffed toys made after the likeness of these species were offered at Bench. And for every item sold, a peso went to the Calauit Foundation.

The Bench anniversary signals a sort of coming-of-age for the popular brand. After 14 years in the apparel and lifestyle industry, Bench has fully grown up. What started as a small enterprise designed to give the youth/yuppie market an alternative clothing line that is stylish yet affordable, Bench has become the ultimate name in Filipino fashion.

Getting the hair look you want

MOST women are unhappy with their hair. And chances are, you may be one of them.

However trivial this may seem, it has a nagging psychological effect on women, especially on their sense of self-confidence and well being. This is evident in their frequent visits to the parlor, almost regular change in hairstyle and the tendency to switch from one hair product to another.

And to add to the confusion as to what women really want to do with their hair, some of them tend to complain even right after their visit to the parlor or after trying another brand of shampoo or conditioner. This dilemma is shared by 70 percent of women all over the world, according to a study conducted by Procter & Gamble (P&G), makers of the popular line of Pantene Pro-V shampoo and conditioner.

Dissatisfaction over one's hair is often due to wrong self-diagnosis, with almost 50 percent of women misjudging their hair type and thus buying the wrong type of shampoo or conditioner for their hair. This results in loss of potential volume, lack of shine and unmanageable hair.

The regional study further shows that to get a volume-up hair look, 42 percent of Filipino women use high-conditioning instead of low-conditioning shampoo. And when they want a volume-down hair look, at least 6 percent use low-conditioning shampoo instead.

Of the Filipino consumers who use low-conditioning variants and are dissatisfied with their hair, 32 percent experience split ends; 25 percent, dandruff; and 21 percent, dry hair. Of those who use high-conditioning variants and are dissatisfied with their hair, 11 percent experience oily hair and lack of body problems.

All these factors bring P&G experts to the conclusion that determining the nature of one's hair can be so difficult and tricky that it often leads to misdiagnosis and wrong choice of hair product.

"Now I know it is better for women to choose their hair products based not on the nature of their hair, but precisely on what they want their hair to be," Babes Toribio, a corporate communications coordinator in an ad agency, says.

LONGBILOG!
TAPBILOG!
TOCIBILOG!
BAR-B-LOG!
PUREFOODS

Wow! Siguradong bibilog ang mata
ng iyong pamilya 'pag nakita nila ang paborito nilang
tapa, tocino, longanisa at barbecue ngayon!
Almusal, tanghalian o hapunan, instant ulam na.
Sarap ng lasang Pinoy, huling-huli ng Pritong Pinoy!

PRITONG PINOY
Alanghap Sarap!

PUREFOODS HORMEL

NEW
PUREFOODS
PRITONG PINOY
BARBEQUE
BEEF TAPA Slices
LONGANISA Slices
PORK TOCINO